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Equipment tainted with explosive

## Lab tests cast doubt on IRA convictions

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST 12 people may have been wrongly convicted of terrorist offences on the strength of tests at a government laboratory where equipment was contaminated with explosives, the Home Office disclosed yesterday.

Michael Howard has ordered an investigation into a series of bombing convictions, which could include some of the most high-profile IRA trials of the past seven years. Among the cases expected to be reviewed are those of Robert Frys and Hugh Jack, who were found guilty of conspiring to cause explosions and Sean McNulty, who was jailed for 25 years for bombing oil and gas installations.

The Home Secretary called for the review after traces of the explosive RDX, a substance found in Semtex, were discovered in a key piece of machinery two months ago when a scientist split a sample during a routine check at the Forensic Explosives Laboratory near Sevenoaks in Kent.

Experts said last night that the chance of contamination of samples was minute, but they admitted that the potential for a miscarriage of justice could not be discounted.

The disclosure is a big embarrassment for the Government, especially as doubt over scientific evidence have been a key element in a series of miscarriages of justice including the cases of the Birmingham Six, the McGuire Seven and Judith Ward.

Mr Howard said yesterday that the prospects of a miscarriage of justice was extremely

small, but he was determined not to take the risk. "We are going to have an independent investigation to make sure that if there is any case in which a suspect sample of this kind formed part of the evidence it is looked at again."

The Home Secretary was criticised, however, for making his announcement in a written parliamentary answer rather than in a Commons statement. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said he would demand an emergency statement today. He said: "It is preposterous that Mr Howard chose to slip this out by way of a written answer rather than making a full statement to MPs. His handling of this has been inept given the seriousness of the issue."

The Home Office was unable to provide exact details of the number of convictions that might be affected. Thirty-eight people have been jailed since 1989 under the Explosives Substances Act, although some cases would have involved explosives other than Semtex and would have been supported by other evidence.

In his written answer, Mr Howard admitted that a number of terrorist cases being referred back to the Court of Appeal.

The explosives contamination involved a small amount — not more than 30 micrograms — of the explosive RDX, one of the main components of the explosive Semtex, he said.

It was detected in a part of a laboratory centrifuge which



President Chirac blows kisses to the crowd as he rides with the Queen in an open landau to Buckingham Palace on the first day of his state visit

## M Chirac takes a train to a beef lunch

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Field of the Cloth of Gold it was not. But, given the haughty indifference of capital cities to foreign nabobs, President Chirac of France attracted a very respectable crowd when he arrived in London yesterday for a three-day state visit.

A number of tests proved negative and others led to no convictions, but findings of traces of RDX are believed to have formed part of the prosecution case in a series of prosecutions.

Pat Doherty, the vice-president of Sinn Fein, said: "It seems incredible that the same method of forensic testing can be used for seven years without it being scrutinised. Michael Howard's admission that these cases go back over seven years also raises the question of how long did the British Government know that evidence in these cases were false."

It was detected in a part of

a laboratory centrifuge which

arrived at Waterloo at 12.12, one minute early, to the relief of all concerned.

M and Mme Chirac were greeted at platform 24 by Princess Margaret, who welcomed them with a breezy "bonjour". After meeting the necessary railway officials, the royal party travelled in two cars to Horse Guards and the full-scale official welcome.

Horse Guards is more or less permanently set out with thousands of seats for tourists to watch the Trooping the Colour ceremony. Yesterday only a few hundred of the seats were filled, making it look like a second-division football stadium when the first team is playing away.

President Chirac greeted the Queen with a long, slow handshake and some intimate conversation. His wife, a footstep behind, did not curtsey, although a momentary twitch in her left knee suggested that she had at least thought about it.

The Queen wore a lavender blue wool coat with swing back and mandarin-style collar. Palace officials will never name the designer although yesterday's was undoubtedly Ian Thomas. The French made no secret of the fact that Mme Chirac was wearing Karl Lagerfeld: a beige and ivory tweed jacket worn over a black crepe skirt with handbag and straw hat.

Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, M Chirac inspected a guard of honour provided by the Irish Guards.

and Paddy Ashdown and he and Mme Chirac paid a 15-minute call on Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Last night the Queen entertained the Chiracs to a state banquet in the ballroom at Buckingham Palace, where the main course was rack of lamb served with spring vegetables and asparagus.

The Queen appeared to rule out any British pull-out from Europe when she told M. Chirac: "We will continue to stand with you in the United Nations, the European Union and Nato, as a partner with world interests." M Chirac replied: "Franco-British friendship must be a cornerstone of the construction of Europe, on which the future of our children depends."

## Dissidents held in horror cell

By MICHAEL DYNES

TRIBAL activists, opposed to the operations of Shell in Nigeria, are being held in horrific prison conditions.

Nineteen Ogoni detainees, awaiting trial for their alleged involvement in the murder of tribal leaders, have been held for two years in Port Harcourt prison. Documents smuggled out and seen by *The Times*, bear testimony to medieval conditions.

The revelation will embarrass the Anglo-Dutch company which is today holding its annual general meetings.

Nigeria 'frame-up': page 15

## Labour clash over dole for 12 months

By JILL SHERMAN  
CHIEF POLITICAL  
CORRESPONDENT

A NEW row has developed in the Shadow Cabinet over whether a Labour government should again make unemployment benefit available for 12 months.

Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, is pressing for the new Job Seekers Allowance, which replaces unemployment benefit and reduces it to six months from this October, to be paid over a full year.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, has argued that the move, estimated to cost £150 million, is too expensive and has asked for it to be removed from a policy document which Mr Smith had

prepared. The document, which is said to include a range of welfare to work proposals, has been put on hold and will not go to Labour's national policy forum this weekend for approval with six policy documents. It will instead merely go forward as a discussion paper.

Mr Smith is still fighting his corner to extend the benefits for unemployed people but sources say he is unlikely to win unless he can identify savings to pay for it.

"Papers are always being filled by the Treasury," one party source said. "It would be unusual if a document containing a spending commitment had not been filled."

Mr Brown has told Mr Smith to remove a section on child benefit from his paper on

for 16 to 18 year olds, to save £700 million.

Mr Smith, who knew nothing of the scheme till the morning it was leaked, has agreed to look again at the payments as part of a review of post-16 education. Mr Smith and David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, are studying a number of options on child benefit.

Mr Smith is keen on channelling some of the savings to encourage poorer families to keep their children at school after 16. One option is to increase allowances for poorer families from the present £10.80 weekly rate for child benefit to about £20, while removing it altogether for richer families or taxing it for higher income groups.

Mr Smith will share a platform with Mr Brown, Mr Blunkett and Tony Blair today when Labour announces its £1.5 billion deal to eradicate youth unemployment.

Mr Blair will unveil new plans to abolish the Government's Youth Training programme and use the £550 million savings to replace it with a new Target 2000 training scheme. Labour's aim is to ensure that all youngsters develop certain basic numeracy and literacy skills by the time they are 18.

Mr Blunkett, who has drawn up the scheme with Stephen Byers, a Shadow Employment Minister, will today pledge that Labour will offer employment, training and education opportunities for 600,000 people under 25.

## Germans lay ground for Wembley final

By DAVID MADDOCK

THERE is a question raised at some stage by every football supporter whose memory of the 1996 World Cup final has dimmed. Why, they ask, does Germany win everything? The answer, it seems, lies in the preparation.

They had booked a luxurious Manchester hotel for the European Championship, beginning on June 8, even before the qualifying campaign. Now the Germans have had a pitch built at the cost of £10,000 to allow them to train within the grounds.

The training surface has been built to the exact proportions of the Wembley pitch and covered with the same turf, which will be cut to the same length. This is despite the fact that they are only likely

to play on the real Wembley turf if they reach the final.

"We have been preparing for these championships from even before the last competition was completed four years ago," a spokesman for the German Football Federation explained.

Risk is not a concept they will entertain in their diet either. They will eat no British beef. The team will munch their way through 90lb of meat a day during the championship, all of it imported from a Bavarian butcher.

An entire wing of the hotel has been booked for the 60-strong party for three weeks. A satellite has been installed to beam German programmes into the players' rooms, and no doubt towels have already been placed beside the leisure club's luxury pool.

The German FA had nipped in first to lay several other associations interested in using the hotel as a base. "They are spot on with their attention to detail. We have worked closely with them for several months to get everything right, and we believe we have covered everything," said Paul Clayton, the hotel's general manager.

England supporters have every reason to be worried. The German squad for the tournament was announced on Monday and they will arrive here in time for their first press conference on May 24. England, by contrast, have not even finalised their squad and next week set off on an apparently pointless trip to China and Hong Kong.

Charlton's roving role: page 50



"I'm not playing truant, I can't get in"

John Major promised yesterday that the Government would fund improved security for schools..... Page 6

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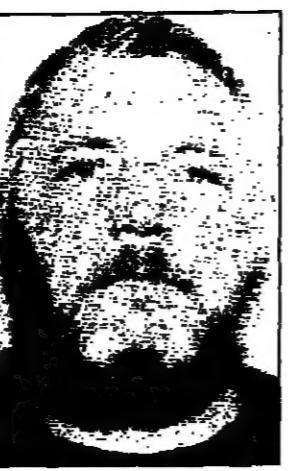
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CPS to review cases after contaminated lab test throws into doubt at least a dozen IRA convictions



Terrorists whose cases could be re-examined: Sean McNulty, Feilim O Hadhmaill, Robert Fryers, Vincent Wood, Patrick Hayes and Denis Kinsella

## The terrorists who could go free

By FRANCES GIBB  
AND RICHARD DUKE

LEADING IRA terrorists jailed for horrific attacks on mainland Britain could have their convictions quashed after the inquiry into contaminated equipment at the Government's Fort Halstead laboratory.

The Crown Prosecution Service is expected to conduct its own preliminary review of at least 12 terrorist cases potentially affected by the contamination of evidence.

But even if contamination is found, the convictions would not necessarily be considered unsafe. Each case will depend on how central the explosives evidence was and the strength of other evidence put during the trial.

It is likely to be some months before a report is published by Brian Caddy, professor of forensic science at Strathclyde University, who has been appointed by the Home Office to head an independent inquiry.

Professor Caddy is no stranger to dealing with miscarriages of justice: he advised the Birmingham Six and the Maguire family during their long battles to clear their names on explosive convictions. He is widely acknowledged as the foremost scientist in his field.

### THE PRISONERS

In the meantime, the CPS, which is refusing to name any of the prisoners affected, is to conduct its own review. A spokeswoman said: "We will look at the files of those we think may be involved. But before considering the legal implications, we will await Professor Caddy's findings. It is not until that point that we are really able to look at the cases from the legal point of view, to see whether any evidence has been contaminated."

The cases likely to be reviewed:

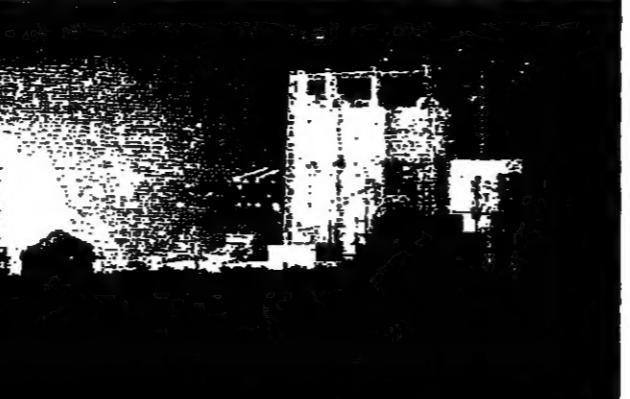
■ Feilim O Hadhmaill, who was jailed at the Old Bailey for 25 years in November 1994 after he was seen unloading a car containing 37lb of Semtex and bomb-making equipment.

O Hadhmaill, from Belfast, was regarded by police as the most senior IRA terrorist on the mainland Britain.

■ Robert Fryers, 44, who was jailed in January 1995 for 25 years and Hugh Jack, 37, who was jailed for 20 years, after being found guilty of conspiring to cause explosions. Fryers was arrested in July 1993 as he stood at a bus stop near Staples Corner, who was born in northwest London, with a bomb in a holdall.

■ Gerard Mackie, 33, and Derek Doherty, 23, who were both convicted in October 1994 of conspiracy to cause an explosion. They were found to have taken part in a plot in which 12 bombs were planted in seven days.

■ Sean McNulty, 26, who was jailed for 25 years in August 1994 for bombing oil and gas installations on Tyneside. Traces of Semtex were said to have been found inside his car but he was also convicted after his footprints were found at the scene. McNulty, who was born in



Aftermath of the Tyneside bombing, for which Sean McNulty was jailed for 25 years

England, had a passionate hatred for Britain and, when sentenced, told the judge: "No problem."

■ Ian Taylor and Patrick Hayes, two English "weekend revolutionaries" who were jailed for 30 years in May 1994, Taylor on eight terrorist charges and Hayes on 11. They graduated from left-wing demonstrations to become leading IRA activists.

Hayes was linked to two lorry bombs, each packed with more than a ton of explosive left at Canary Wharf and behind Tottenham Court Road in London. Only a fault stopped the bombs exploding.

Police believe that the men were part of a team that carried out 25 attacks in London from autumn 1992 to early 1993.

■ Denis Kinsella, Sean Kinsella and Pat McGlynn, who were convicted for the bomb attack on Warrington gasworks in 1993. McGlynn, who led the attack, was jailed for 35 years. Denis Kinsella was jailed for 25 years and Sean Kinsella, his uncle, was jailed for 20 years for possessing Semtex with intent.

McGlynn and Denis Kinsella were also found guilty of trying to murder PC Mark Toker after planting the bomb.

Police believe that the men were part of a team that carried out 25 attacks in London from autumn 1992 to early 1993.

■ Nicholas Mullen, 42, of Wood Green, north London, who was jailed for 30 years at the Old Bailey in June 1990. He was arrested after the chance discovery of a bomb factory at a flat in Clapham, south London, described during the trial as one of the biggest found in Britain. He was found guilty among other charges of conspiracy to cause explosions and aiding and abetting a crime under the Explosive Substances Act.

Although they have been involved in some of the most sensitive terrorist cases of recent times, their work has largely gone unnoticed by the public. "That is on purpose," a Whitehall insider said yesterday. "It is one of those areas where one doesn't tend to broadcast very much for obvious security reasons."

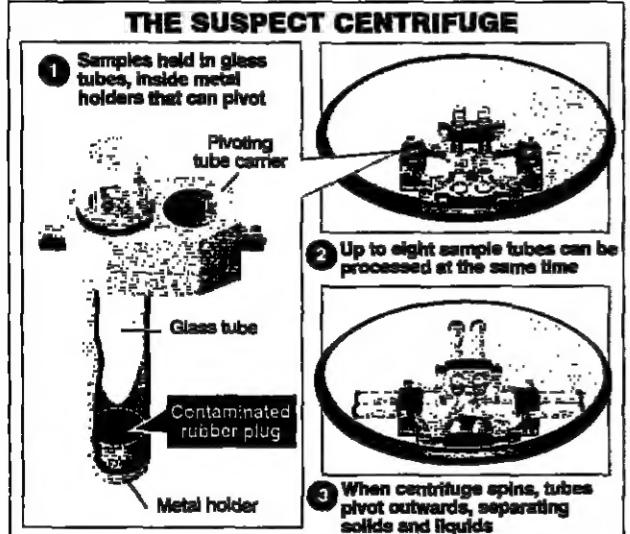
The laboratory was recently called in to sift through the wreckage of the double-decker bus blasted by an IRA bomb in February in the centre of London, killing the bomber and injuring eight others. The twisted remains were painstakingly reassembled behind the wire.

Some of the same experts worked on the wreckage of the Pan Am 747 which crashed on Lockerbie in 1988. The collected remains were transported to Sevenoaks to be rebuilt and studied for clues to the origin of the bomb that brought it down.

They were instrumental in the case of Judith Ward, jailed in 1974 for the M62 coach bombing in which 12 people died and freed in 1992 by the Court of Appeal. They discovered that evidence of explosives may have been due to boot polish and not nitroglycerine.

Some of the forensic science

## Explosive in centrifuge discovered by chance

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE contamination was discovered in a centrifuge that had been in use at Fort Halstead ever since a laboratory to test for tiny traces of explosives was established there in 1989.

The purpose of the centrifuge was to separate the material in samples taken by swabbing fingers or clothes of suspects. Such samples inevitably contain many different materials, including dirt, and the separation is carried out by whirling the samples around in glass tubes rather like test tubes, so that centrifugal force throws the solid matter to the bottom.

It is a technique used in laboratories of all sorts, but at Fort Halstead absolute cleanliness was vital. Once separated by the centrifuge, the liquid part of the samples was poured off from the solid matter at the bottom, and analysed by

### THE PROCESS

gas chromatography. This is sensitive enough to detect explosives in quantities as small as a billionth of a gram.

To protect the glass sample tubes, they are inside metal holders, with rubber plugs at the bottom of each holder. The tubes are longer than the holders, so the plug under normal circumstances, this does not necessarily mean that any incorrect results have been obtained — and test results on a range of samples over the years show no anomalies.

How the contamination originally arose is not clear. The centrifuge was not new in 1989, and may earlier have been used for other tests involving much larger amounts of explosive. A tube may have broken, allowing the absorbent rubber plug to collect traces of RDX, and resulting in contamination.

presence of about 30 millionths of a gram of the explosive RDX — way above the levels expected from such a sample. A more typical value might have been ten billionths of a gram.

Further investigation showed that the rubber plugs — probably only one of them, but this is unclear — were the source of the RDX. Since there is no direct contact between the sample and the plug under normal circumstances, this does not necessarily mean that any incorrect results have been obtained — and test results on a range of samples over the years show no anomalies.

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Entrance to the heavily guarded Fort Halstead

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## Persian cat casts owner in the role of international criminal

By BILL FROST  
AND PETER FOSTER

A PERSIAN cat was responsible for casting a wealthy young businesswoman from Latvia in the role of an international criminal, the High Court was told yesterday.

Suspicions were raised when Vita Kokorevica, 22, a company director, arrived at Gatwick last September with the cat, called Dana, the court heard. Tom Crox-

ford, representing Miss Kokorevica, said: "Her obvious wealth and East European background seemed to make officials think that like Blofeld, the cat-loving arch-villain in James Bond, she was linked to organised crime."

Mr Croxford described Miss Kokorevica as "a rich, young eastern European travelling with a cat — nothing more" who intended to stay at Claridge's in London until the £1.2 million house she had

bought was redecorated. Immigration officials were worried about her ostentatious wealth after a luggage search showed that she had huge receipts for jewellery and a chauffeur-driven Bentley was waiting for her at the airport. They refused entry and contacted the organised crime squad.

"Making her into some Blofeld-type character was something the immigration authorities should not have done," Mr Croxford said. He

said there was no evidence to support their suspicions and the decision to exclude her was unreasonable. Miss Kokorevica was a company director of Vigo Stores (UK) Ltd, which leased luxury cars, and her cat was her constant companion. She was just a frequent traveller "with a very high lifestyle" earning a salary up to £130,000.

Rejecting the submissions, Mr Justice Latham said the immigration authority's actions were justified.

"Business people don't usually come with cats. It is as simple as that," he said. Then there was the purchase of a substantial property and the chauffeur.

After interviewing her in Russian, admittedly not her native language, an immigration official decided that her declared sources of income "did not sit easily with her lifestyle" and she appeared reluctant to identify business colleagues. Miss Kokorevica was allowed to stay in Britain only until the hearing. Dana has already been returned to Latvia.

Last night Miss Kokorevica ordered staff to pack a caravan of Gucci bags at her £1.2 million mock-Tudor thatched mansion, The Round House, at Loudwater, Hertfordshire. Nursing her three-month old son while contemplating her return to Latvia, she said her extraordinary affluence was commonplace in the former Soviet Union and denied any links with Russian mafia money-laundering or any other form of skulduggery.

"It is normal for people as young as me to be wealthy these days, there is nothing sinister about it. I have done nothing wrong. It was all Dana's fault. If I had known that cats were not allowed in this country none of this would have happened. Once the officers found her in my hand luggage they were suspicious about everything."

## Jilted lover reveals all with intimate letter to villagers

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN whose girlfriend left him and refused to let him see their baby sought revenge by sending an offensive letter to everybody in her home village revealing intimate secrets about her family.

Mike Phelan, 40, used the electoral roll to get the names and addresses of 600 villagers in Stoke Gabriel, Devon, where Kathy Holmes, 23, and Millie were living with her parents. Each was sent a copy of the insulting and sexually explicit eight-page letter.

Phelan, of Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire, was fined £1,700 by Totnes magistrates yesterday after admitting sending a malicious communication which was indecent or grossly offensive. Julian Tregellis, the magistrate, told him: "Your actions were certainly grossly offensive and indecent and they caused this lady and her family great distress and anxiety."

After the hearing, Miss Holmes said she would have liked to have seen Phelan imprisoned. "Not because I am vindictive, but I want him to see that what he did was

very wrong and caused everyone great distress."

Many villagers complained to police. One of them, Leslie Purcell, said that the letter, signed M Jones, contained grossly offensive words and a disgusting sexual content.

Chris Bennett, for the prosecution, said that the letter, "to set tongues wagging", contained gossip of Miss Holmes's private life, that of her parents and sister.

The couple met in 1991 when Phelan ran a publishing business in Paignton, Devon.

In October 1993 the couple moved to Edinburgh and the following year Miss Holmes became pregnant. But Phelan started to be increasingly possessive and the relationship ended.

Phelan made a series of telephone calls and became very angry, making wild and irrational threats and, while Miss Holmes at first was willing to allow him access to Millie, she then thought he might fail to return her.

He responded by sending her a copy of the letter he planned to distribute through

out the village and a copy of the electoral roll to prove he had the addresses.

"In it there was a large amount of gossip about her personal life, her parents' personal life and her sister's personal life. It was very intimate and caused her great distress."

"Nothing happened for a while but then, on March 15 this year, he told her he had sent them. And then, on March 18, villagers received them," he said.

Mr Purcell complained to the police about the letter. "They contained swear words that he found grossly offensive and sexual contents which he found disgusting," said Mr Bennett. "They contained delicate personal details, medical conditions and sexual proclivities and activities of the persons concerned."

The letter, which was not read out in court, also gave the address and telephone numbers of the family members in it.

Owen Evans, in mitigation, said Phelan had acted out of frustration at not being able to see his daughter. "He knew a lot of things about this young lady and her family, some of it not very pleasant," he said.

"If his motivation was to embarrass Miss Holmes, then I can tell you that after press coverage of the case, then he is just as embarrassed as Miss Holmes is," he said.

A woman resident of Stoke Gabriel said last night: "Everybody was absolutely disgusted. I do not know the girl involved and, like everybody else, just tore the letter up and threw it in the bin. It was beneath contempt."

The results of their masterclass — conducted during a recent two-week visit to Hockney's Malibu beach



Mark Hallett, holding his painting of David Hockney's Malibu beach house, edges past a portrait of Hockney at the Salt's Mill Gallery

## Hockney gives students California dream

By JOE JOSEPH

WHEN the Government urged schools to pep up the standard of their teaching they probably were not expecting that four A-level art students from Bradford Grammar would go so far as to wangle a personal tutorial from David Hockney.

The reason they struck so lucky was that one of the world's greatest living painters also just happens to be a nostalgic Bradford Grammar old boy.

The results of their masterclass — conducted during a recent two-week visit to Hockney's Malibu beach

house — went on show yesterday at the Salt's Mill Gallery, near Bradford. The teenagers' work hangs next to Hockney originals.

"It is as if Picasso had asked pupils from his old school to come and join him in his chateau in France," John Silver, who owns the gallery and who is an old friend of Hockney, said yesterday. "The boys did pictures of the house of David's famous dachshund, Stanley, and of Los Angeles landscapes. They also did some Hockney-style photographic 'joiners'."

A large photo-collage of the four boys with their art master, Robert

Walker, who accompanied them on their trip to Los Angeles, also hangs in the gallery. On a visit to the school Hockney had been impressed with the work of Robert Frith, Mark Hallett, Ben Walker and James Bowskill and invited them to stay with him in his expatriate home.

Robert, 17, said: "We just expected to use his house and thought he would actually be in Venice. But when we arrived we walked down the stairs of his beach house and there he was to welcome us. He showed us all round his studio and we learnt a lot about the way he works." Ben, also 17, said: "He

took us out in his 300SL soft-top Mercedes on a ride through the San Gabriel mountains known as the 'Wagner run'. The drive is fantastic, all around the windy mountain roads, to the accompaniment of Wagner's *Ride of the Valkyries*, which is blasted from speakers beneath the back seats. It was the most fantastic experience. I think it has inspired us all."

Mr Walker said: "It was two weeks in paradise, quite incredible. David is a very kind man and couldn't have done more for us. The lads haven't stopped talking about it and the work is just pouring out of them."

## WPC 'made ill by sex taunts at work'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN police constable was driven to the verge of illness by the blatant sexual comments of colleagues, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

They made lewd gestures, hinted she was having an affair with a fellow officer and jokingly suggested to a glue-sniffer who had been arrested that he have sex with her in the back of a police van.

Karen Wade, 27, a WPC with the West Yorkshire force, is now on sick leave through stress, the hearing at Leeds was told. She is claiming sexual harassment by PC Dean Mountain, Sgt Paul Fountain and Sgt Ian Devey, three colleagues at the Holbeck station in Leeds.

Soon after the incident with the glue-sniffer she went on sick leave with chronic hyperventilation syndrome brought on by anxiety and stress. The WPC, who joined the West Yorkshire force in 1992, sobbed as she told the hearing: "I found their sexual com-

ments degrading and humiliating, especially when they called me a tart and a stripper. After a few months I began to feel as if I could do nothing right. I lost motivation and confidence. It got to the point when I didn't want to be at Holbeck."

"I tried to cope at work until I got so depressed and distressed I went on sick leave. I was unhappy and felt unaccepted. I felt totally isolated. No one had anything to do with me I was made to feel like a total outsider."

"It got to the stage where I couldn't even open my mouth without someone poking fun at me." She said she had brought the complaint because she was on the edge of a nervous breakdown. "It is an unwritten rule in the police force not to say anything against your colleagues, otherwise you will be ostracised. I could not even trust my immediate supervisors with my complaints."

The hearing continues.

## Australians ready to deport serial killer from Glasgow

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT, AND ROGER MAYNARD

AUSTRALIA is likely to deport to Britain a murderer from Glasgow who has killed four people and once said he would kill seven people.

Yesterday Glasgow City Council confirmed that the authorities in New South Wales had been in touch over the deportation of Archie "Mad Dog" McCafferty, 47, who came before the Offender Review Board in Sydney this week. McCafferty, originally from the city's Woodside area, has served 22 years in jail for multiple murder. He was rehabilitation, apologise for what he had done and said he did not wish to hurt anyone. His parole officer said McCafferty's "resocialisation" had been exceptional.

McCafferty, then aged 24, controlled a gang of teenagers; their first murder victim was a drunk whom McCafferty

stabbed seven times. Two nights later in the cemetery where his son was buried, McCafferty shot dead a miner with seven children. That night the gang murdered a driving instructor.

McCafferty vowed to kill again and one of the gang, believing he was next, contacted the police.

He was given 14 years for manslaughter for killing a fellow inmate in Parramatta jail, Sydney, in 1981.

This week he told the board

he was rehabilitated, apologised for what he had done and said he did not wish to hurt anyone. His parole officer said McCafferty's "resocialisation" had been exceptional.

A spokesman for Berrima jail near Sydney said yesterday: "McCafferty should know his fate in a couple of weeks. If the Offender Review Board give him parole they may simply set a date.

As he faces a deportation order, he will be put on the first available flight home."

The action was stayed by consent with the payment of the damages by City and Hackney Health Authority, which denied liability.

## Breast scar claim is settled

By BILL FROST

A WOMAN who felt violated by scars left from cosmetic breast surgery ten years ago settled her damages claim for £27,500 yesterday.

Julie Allen had mastectomy — a skin-tightening procedure — to improve the appearance of her breasts after her weight had fluctuated from the anorexia and bulimia she had as a teenager.

She claimed in the High Court that Antony Wallace, the consultant plastic surgeon who carried out the operation

on her, was unqualified to perform the procedure.

The court heard that he had

## Bishop may leave his Faith behind

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the Church of England's leading opponents of women priests yesterday offered to resign as head of the most prominent traditionalist group, Forward in Faith, on

its appointment as bishop.

The Rev John Broadhurst, who will be consecrated the new Bishop of Fulham later this year, said some members of the traditionalists' umbrella group, which has led the opposition to women priests in the Church, would be unhappy at having a bishop as their head.

Some members of Forward in Faith, which has been accused of creating a church within a church, regard themselves as effectively out of communion with the main body of the Church because of women priests.

Fr Broadhurst, as Bishop of Fulham, will take responsibility for parishes in the London, Rochester and Southwark dioceses which cannot accept the ordination of women priests.

"One consequence of the ordination of women has been the straining and sometimes breaking of internal relationships," he said. "It is my belief that both sides on this difficult and complex issue must give each other enough space to live with dignity and confidence. I have no intention of presiding over a ghetto."

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Ferrets to  
the rescue  
at ancient  
castle

By Michael Bawden

AN army of ferrets has been drafted in to save a 1,000-year-old Norman castle that is under threat from the building activities of a nearby town with a population of 10,000.

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# Car workers ready to strike in row over French leave

BY KEVIN EASON, MOToring EDITOR

NEARLY 3,000 car workers are threatening to strike because their company wants them to take all of August as holiday.

Peugeot has told workers at its factory at Ryton in Warwickshire that it wants to close the plant for the whole month, extending their time off from three weeks to four, in a row, in line with the rest of the company in France.

However, the extra week would be taken from a traditional shutdown in the West Midlands in September, when workers say their wives and families will also be on holiday.

Employees are voting on industrial action and could choose to walk out for the traditional September week if they are forced into the long August closure. The result should be known by Monday.

Peugeot said yesterday that workers could take holiday or statutory days in September, or days off in lieu of bank holiday working if they needed the extra time off that month.

## Ferrets to the rescue at ancient castle

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

AN army of ferrets is to be drafted in to save a 900-year-old Norman castle from being undermined by the burrowing activities of a rampant population of rabbits.

The rabbits have dug a network of warrens in the ramparts of Stafford Castle, a scheduled ancient monument that dates from 1070, and also damaged a replica of a medieval herb garden.

A report for Stafford Borough Council's recreation and leisure committee this week says the rabbits are also causing "increasing damage to buried archaeological deposits", while the "growing number of warrens, divots and small holes" is a safety hazard for the 50,000 people who visit the castle each year.

A council spokesman said: "We have been advised by the wildlife people that ferrets would be the most humane solution. Gassing and shooting would be difficult because the castle site is open to the public seven days a week. The best time will be next winter before the rabbits have bred and when there will be no young in the warrens."

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plants. How can they plan a family holiday when Peugeot has brought in a system totally out of line with everyone else in the Midlands? Four weeks off in a row is ridiculous when your partner stands no chance of getting the same holiday."

The move would put Peugeot out of step with its British counterparts, such as Jaguar, Rover, Ford and Vauxhall, where workers are sent on holiday for two weeks at the end of July and work through much of August.

But Peugeot has been trying to move closer to the working patterns of its French parent for the past few years. August is the traditional month for holidays in France, with Peugeot's big factories closing for the month. When Ryton closed during July, the factory had to stock up with components during June so that it would have supplies when its French factories were closed.

Peugeot said: "Carrying that much stock was expensive and a waste of time and effort. Now we can work when our French suppliers work."

## Ex-leader savages anti-hunt league

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THE former executive director of the League Against Cruel Sports has made an outspoken attack on the organisation in *The Field*, the hunting magazine.

Jim Barrington says a ban on hunting could increase cruelty to foxes and accuses the league of being more concerned with ideological purity than animal welfare. Mr Barrington was forced to leave the league last December after he suggested in an interview with *The Field* that abolition of terrier work — the practice of sending dogs after foxes that have gone to ground — could give hunting a new lease of life.

Since his expulsion, Mr Barrington and other former league members who left with him have set up a new organisation, Wildlife Network, which is working with the British Field Sports Society and other pro-hunting and countryside groups to prevent cruelty to wildlife.

"I think we can make more progress by bringing people of different views together and establishing commonsense middle ground," he said yesterday. "We have got to get away from the idea, still held by extremists on both sides,

that only total victory will do."

In the article, Mr Barrington accuses the league of refusing to recognise that a ban on fox-hunting would lead to more landowners and gamekeepers shooting and snaring the animals to protect sheep and gamebirds. Many injured foxes would die a lingering death instead of being killed quickly by hounds, he says.

"Talking to the other side, or even suggesting unpalatable possibilities, is seen as tantamount to heresy," he writes. "But principles are useless if they cannot be transferred into reality — in fact downright hypocritical if something else suffers while your principles remain intact."

Mr Barrington also says it is naive to assume that a ban on hunting is a foregone conclusion under a future Labour government.

John Bryant, the league's head of press and research, said: "This is absolute nonsense. Why should we compromise our position when for the first time we have overwhelming support in the Commons for an end to hunting and the prospect of a government committed to force the necessary legislation through?"

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# CJD victim's family sues ministers over 'mad cow' advice

By CAROL MIDDLETON

A WOMAN whose mother died of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of 'mad cow' disease, launched legal action yesterday against the Government.

Illa Andrews, 23, a chef from Banbury, Oxfordshire, is seeking legal aid to pursue her claim that the Government failed in its 'duty of care' to inform the public about the dangers of eating beef. Miss Andrews, whose mother, Connie Van Es, died aged 44 two years ago, is the first relative of a victim of CJD to attempt such a legal challenge.

David Harris, her solicitor, said that they would have to show a link existed between BSE and CJD and also that Miss Andrews's mother was eating beef after the Government said it was safe to do so.

Miss Andrews announced her intention to sue at a meeting of relatives of CJD victims in Banbury yesterday. Seventeen families attended the meeting, designed as a support forum and a means of publicising what they described as the 'shambolic' handling of the beef problem.

If Miss Andrews is successful, her case could pave the way for dozens more relatives to take up similar claims. Mr Harris, of Alexander Harris of Sale, Greater Manchester, emphasised that each case would have to be proved

Britain's slender hopes for the easing of the global ban on beef exports depend on France. The European Union's veterinary committee will consider a proposal today to allow British exports of gelatine, tallow and bull semen. France could override the opposition of Germany and other states and President Chirac is being lobbied on his London visit. But earlier this week French ministers were reluctant to support a relaxation.

individually and that Miss Andrews's challenge could take two years to come to court. He said the most that could be won in compensation was £7,500 but it was worth pursuing for the 'wider emotional consequences.'

'It is all very well for the Government to contend that there is no proven link. There are suggestions indeed that have been put in the press and the media over a considerable period of time that there is a link,' he said.

Miss Andrews said her Dutch-born mother had died within three months of showing the first symptoms of CJD. At first Ms Van Es, who was divorced from her husband, Terry Andrews, was depressed and suffered mood swings, becoming panic-stricken at the thought of

the disease when it was first diagnosed.

'I remember looking it up in the medical dictionaries with the doctors,' she said. 'I must admit that when someone first suggested beef to me, I thought 'You must be joking'. But now I'm convinced.'

She said her mother ate beef 'but no more or less than anybody else. We have it twice, three, maybe four times a week, depending on what we wanted to eat that week.'

'If someone can prove to me it wasn't beef then I will accept it. But no one can.'

Miss Andrews added: 'We just can't get over the fact that we lost our perfectly healthy mother at the age of 44. We should have had a lot more years with her and the Government should have been telling people about the dangers of eating beef years ago.'



Geoffrey Cheney holds up the bullet he removed from Tenneh Cole's head

## Passive smoking may not kill but it does a lot of harm

CAMPAIGNS against tobacco have tended to rely heavily on the increased liability of cigarette smokers to develop cancer of the lung. Although the statistics are frightening, these crusades have understated the effect of cigarettes on cardiovascular disease, non-malignant conditions of the lung such as emphysema and bronchitis, and cancers of the mouth, gut, bladder and cervix.

The knowledge that smoking makes it four times more likely to have a fatal coronary thrombosis before the age of

65 is in many ways a greater deterrent than the increased risk of developing cancer of the lung.

Recent research by the European working group on environmental tobacco smoke and lung cancer, which has shown that passive smoking is a statistically insignificant factor in the cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, is no great surprise to most doctors.

The traditional teaching is that about one in ten lung tumours occurs in non-smokers and those usually have a different cellular structure.

Thirty years ago a non-smoking patient with lung cancer considered it a misfortune of nature and blamed nobody, but now it is rare to see such a patient who does not blame it, without any true evidence, on a smoking spouse, a neighbour at work or a lifetime as a barman or in some other job

that involves working in a smoky atmosphere.

The greater chance of developing a common disability is usually more telling than the fear of catastrophe in the future. As a former doctor in genito-urinary medicine, I have always felt that the simple statistic that smoking one cigarette cuts the penile blood supply by a third is likely to do more to dissuade middle-age smokers than all the statistics on cancer of the lung.

Aged 25, fit and youthful, a smoker can afford a third of a desirable, if not essential, blood supply without disadvantage; 15 years later he may well find this loss is crucial.

Likewise, smokers will not be discouraged by news that passive smokers have a relative risk of 1.0, where 1.0 means no increase in risk, but may think again when they realise that their addiction

can exacerbate many minor problems suffered by those with whom they work or live.

Passive smoking may trigger asthma, allergic rhinitis (a runny nose), bronchitis and angina in their colleagues. Even the toughest smoker would presumably refrain from smoking if he or she understood its detrimental effect on children, where it is closely related to the incidence of childhood asthma and cot death.

Working, or living, in a tobacco-laden atmosphere induces chest pain in patients

with coronary heart disease. When people with heart disease share a car to work with smokers they have angina on the way when they are breathing smoke-laden air, and on the way back, but while in the office they are free of chest pain.

Passive smoking may cause angina, coughing, a runny nose, it may even kill small babies, but it is unlikely to give rise to cancer.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Malicious caller loses court plea

A man jailed for assaulting women by making hundreds of silent phone calls has lost his appeal against conviction at the Court of Appeal. Lord Justice Swinton Thomas said: 'That the violence is inflicted indirectly, causing psychological harm, does not render the act to be any less an act of violence.' Robert Ireland, 28, of Hereford, whose victim suffered physical symptoms, was jailed for three years at Newport Crown Court, Gwent, in March last year. He has since been released.

### Kidnap arrests

Police have made several arrests in the hunt for masked men wielding baseball bats who kidnapped a man of 47 in a loyalist area of Belfast. He was found near Larne at 3am yesterday with head injuries.

### Meningitis death

A boy aged two from Birmingham died from meningococcal meningitis hours after admission to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. His family had been staying at a holiday camp in Dawlish Warren.

### Shand-Kydd case

Frances Shand-Kydd, the Princess of Wales's mother, was accused at Oban Sheriff Court of driving while over the alcohol limit and not providing a breath test. There was no plea. The case was adjourned.

### Operative twist

Robert Corner, 36, who badly twisted his ankle while playing the lead role in a local production of *Pirates of Penzance* at Long Eaton, Derbyshire, has won £4,750 from the insurers of the scenery makers.

### GP cautioned

A GP has been cautioned by police for assaulting one of the partners at his health centre practice, allegedly in front of patients. Dr Graham Russell, 63, of Gloucester, has since left the practice.

### Hooligan video

A video giving warning of violence at the European Football Championship will go on sale next week uncut. Production of *Hooligan 96* was suspended after criticisms that it glorified hooliganism.

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# Whitehall lets bill run out of control at British Library

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

SQUABBLES and indecision by civil servants over building the new British Library have trebled costs and caused a catalogue of technical disasters, a public spending watchdog says today.

The resulting delays mean that the building will open eight years behind schedule, at the end of next year. When the public finally admitted, the library will not have enough seats to meet demand. A report by the National Audit Office blames disputes between the Heritage Department and the library for many of the problems. The two bodies behaved as "opposing parties rather than partners" in the construction of the £500 million building at St Pancras, London.

In the summer of 1994, when a cash limit of £450 million had been breached, the department considered abandoning the building, described by the Prince of Wales as "a

dim collection of sheds groping for some symbolic significance". The idea was rejected and another £40 million was made available. That was used up in February and costs are still rising.

The audit office is highly critical of the library's role but keeps its main barbs for the department. The report has been delayed for many months while Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, tried to persuade the audit office to water down some of its criticisms. Yet the conclusion remains devastating: the library never had direct management or contractual responsibility for the construction and the Government's desire to secure short-term savings not only led to delays but eventually added to long-term costs, now standing at £496 million.

The report says: "Having effectively two clients for a major construction project

carries a high risk of disagreement and indecision over issues of cost versus quality." Conflicting objectives between the department and the library "aggravated time and cost overruns". In a rebuke to the Government, the audit office says: "Major capital projects should be sponsored exclusively by their users, who are best placed to balance time, cost and quality issues."

The library is due to take over the building from the department early next year. The first books will be moved in November this year but the service to readers will not begin until the end of 1997. The audit office queries whether the 1,200 reader seats will be sufficient. Demand for the science reading room, with 351 seats, is expected to be "exceeded at or shortly after opening".

The building, which will eventually house 18 million books when it replaces the old

A litany of technical problems 1991: electronic bookshelves in contract worth £8.4m found to be faulty. The gear mechanisms jam and start to eject books onto the floor. 1992: the air-conditioning system found to be faulty and sections of the building flood. 1993: the fire protection system found to be inadequate and 5,000 sprinklers have to be replaced. 1994: more than 2,000 miles of electric cabling ripped out when faults are discovered which leave electrical systems vulnerable to short-circuiting. 1995: a ceiling found to have been built too low has to be demolished and replaced.

## THE BRITISH LIBRARY - THE STORY SO FAR

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Underground bookstores and delivery system

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## Gallery to shine light on Roman treasures

BY JOHN YOUNG

A NEW gallery for the display of some of the greatest treasures of Roman Britain will open at the British Museum next year.

Many of the objects have never been on public display. They include remarkable new archaeological discoveries, such as a superbly preserved building facade from Meerton in Hampshire and the spectacular early 5th-century hoard from Hoxne in Suffolk containing jewellery, silver-plate and thousands of coins.

The gallery is being funded by a £1.75 million donation from the Garfield Weston foundation. Robert Anderson, the museum's director, said yesterday: "This significant gift from the foundation will at last enable us to do justice to our Roman-British collections."

The display will include writing tablets from Vindolanda on Hadrian's Wall, which provided remarkable insight into life on the northern frontier of the empire.

Leading article, page 19



Anna of Brazil, a porn star, in Cannes yesterday

## Porn brokers take a front-row seat at film festival

FROM DALYA ALBERGE IN CANNES

THE seamier side of the Cannes Film Festival is flaunting itself unashamedly: pornography is a thriving industry.

"Take a walk down Porn Row", one specialist in "erotic films" said, pointing to an area of the conference building where there were many stands.

More than 100 porn exhibitors are in town, tempting buyers with thousands of films as openly as if they were children's cartoons. Just a few years ago, business was discreet. Today, it is in the building where the film festival premiers its main movies. Exhibitors cover their stands with glossy photographs of nudes in the most contorted positions, enticing passers-by to sample a video or two.

Some of the larger-than-life girls look as if silicone was on special offer when they put their bodies in the hands of a surgeon. Most make Pamela Anderson look like a character in a Jane Austen novel. The festivals in Cannes and Milan are the main showcases for pornographic films, which are generally on sale in hard and soft-core versions. Some stands, however, have a third version that is extra-explicit, primarily aimed at the German market.

The porn market has become so strong that 5,000 American porn films were released in the United States alone last year. So many new companies are emerging that prices are being forced down. Chuck Zane, a Californian who has been in the business for 25 years, said: "Porn makers aren't making as much money as they were. I'm sure the world will feel upset for us." He makes 48 features a year. Since the arrival of video, he said, "any

Tom, Dick or Harry has got into the business. They don't have to shoot on film. It used to cost £150,000 to make a porn film but now it can be done for £16,000."

Donna Welles, director of North Star, a Los Angeles company, said: "Making porn has got much more difficult over the past five years because almost every scenario has been played out and mainstream films are so much more explicit that porn makers have to go further."

Tickets to tonight's Hot d'Or Awards, the porn industry's answer to the festival's prestigious Palme d'Or, cost £150. Categories include Best Lesbian Scene.

One of North Star's most recent releases, for which it is seeking a British distributor, is *The Dream Team*, featuring sex on jet skis. Ms Welles discussed the videos in such a matter-of-fact tone that she might have been selling the jet skis.

She turned on the film for a few minutes and said most buyers watched them on fast-forward. The story, she said, did not matter. Buyers just want to see the sex – unless it is destined for cable television, when they need "enough of a storyline".

Asked about the exploitation of women, Ms Welles said: "Most of these girls like to have sex." She emphasised that North Star has strict policies: "No bondage. No bestiality."

Many porn stars were in town yesterday. One of them, Laetitia, said: "I love being a porn star. It's the best thing in the world."

Actresses get as little as £60 for every sex scene, but once they make their names in porn, they can tour as dancers and command salaries of £10,000 a week.



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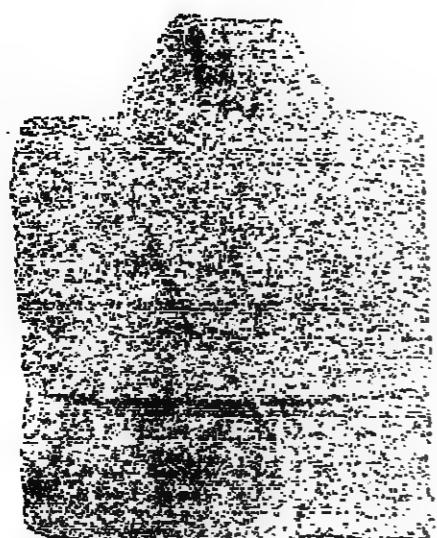
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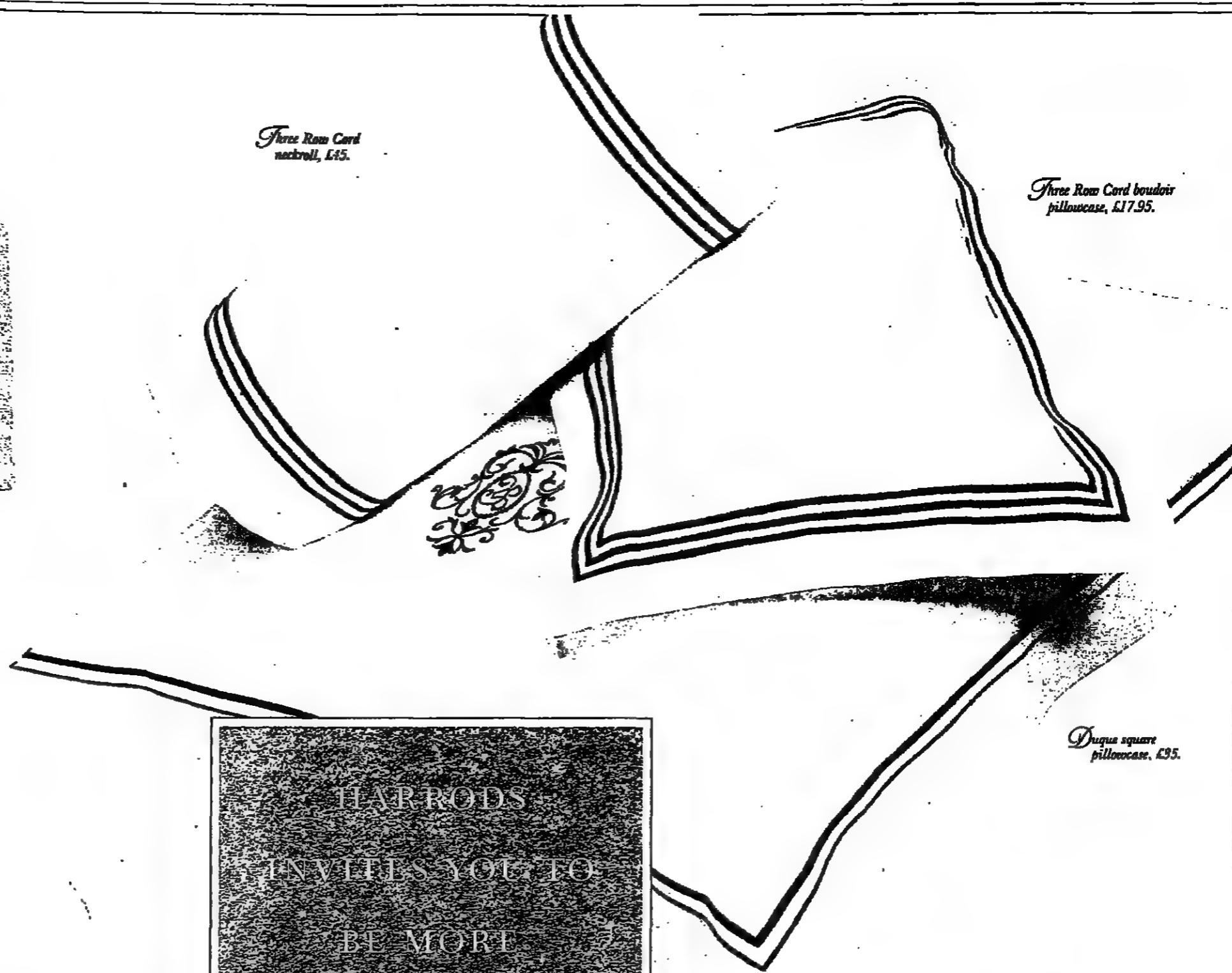




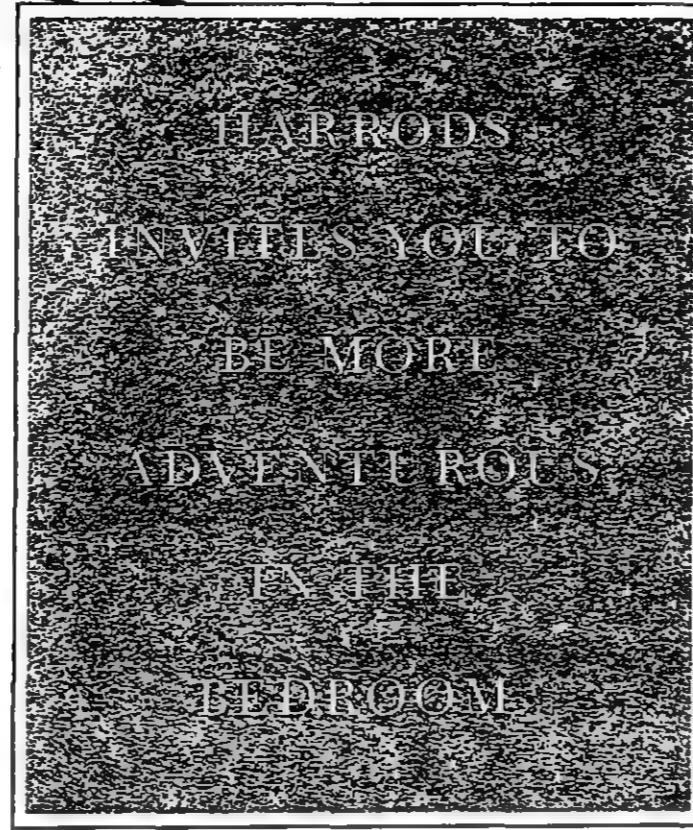
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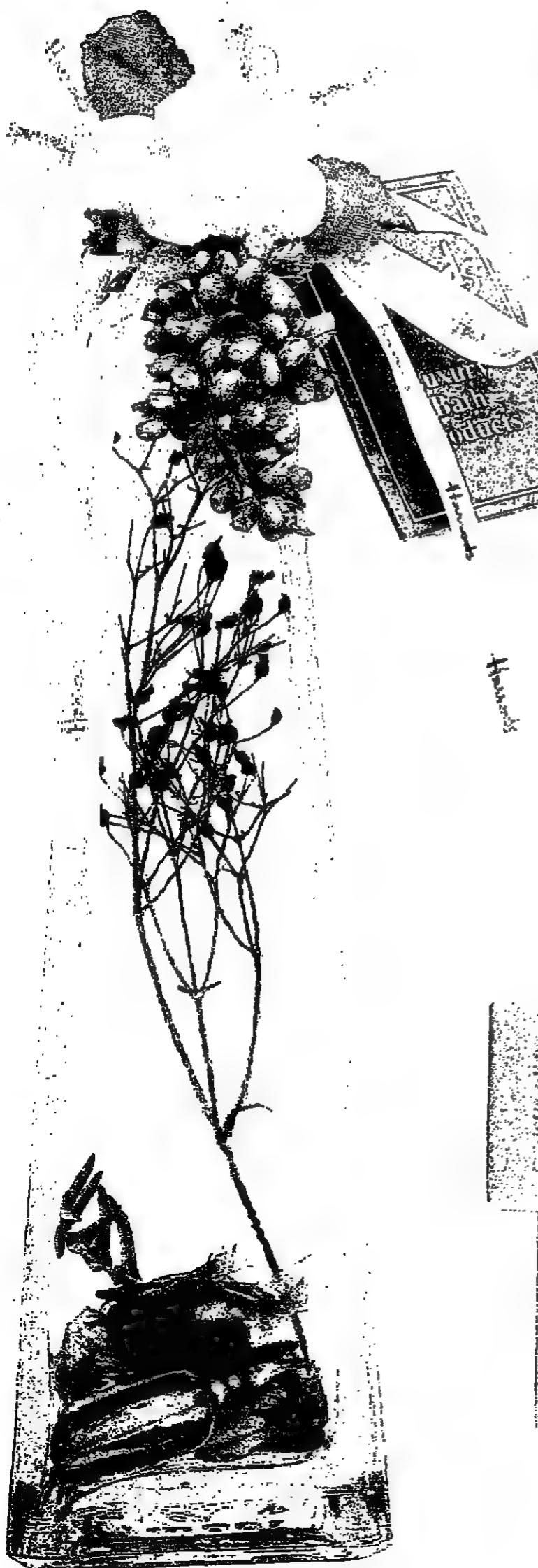
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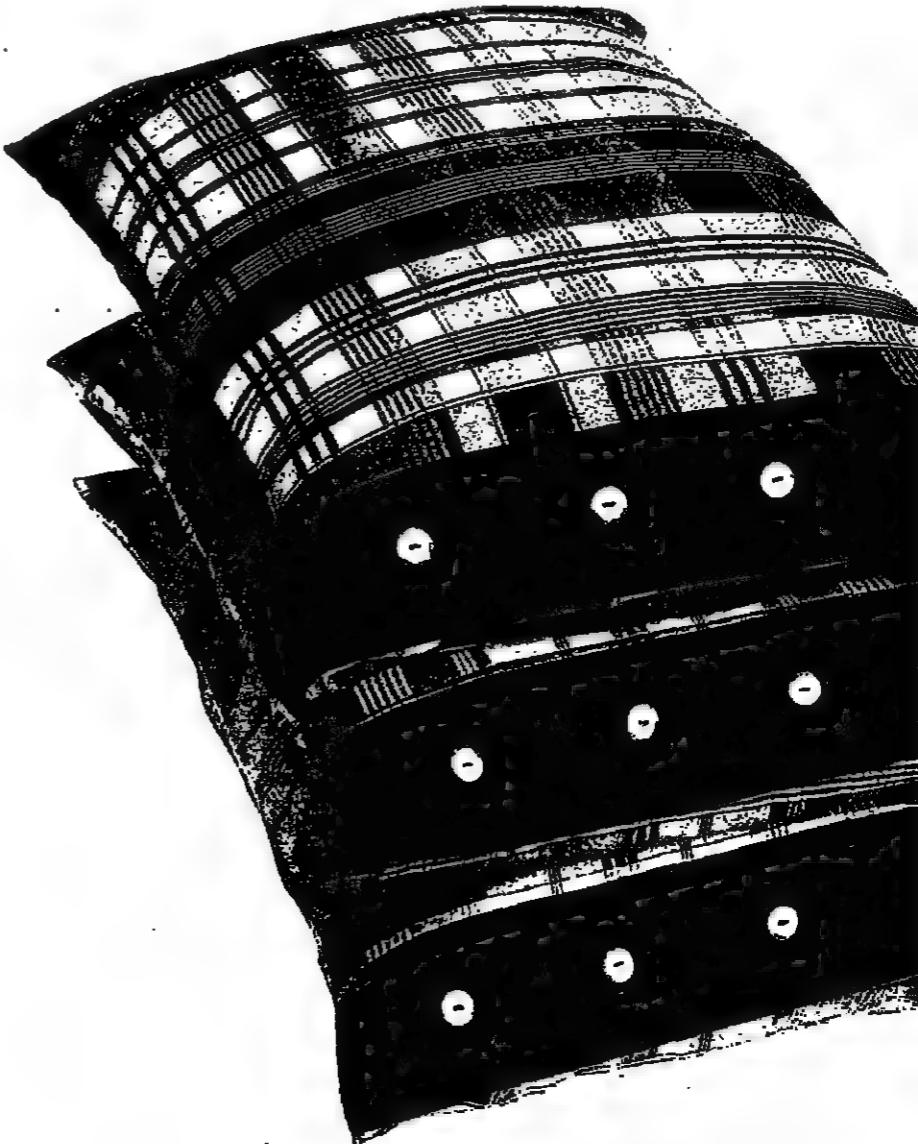
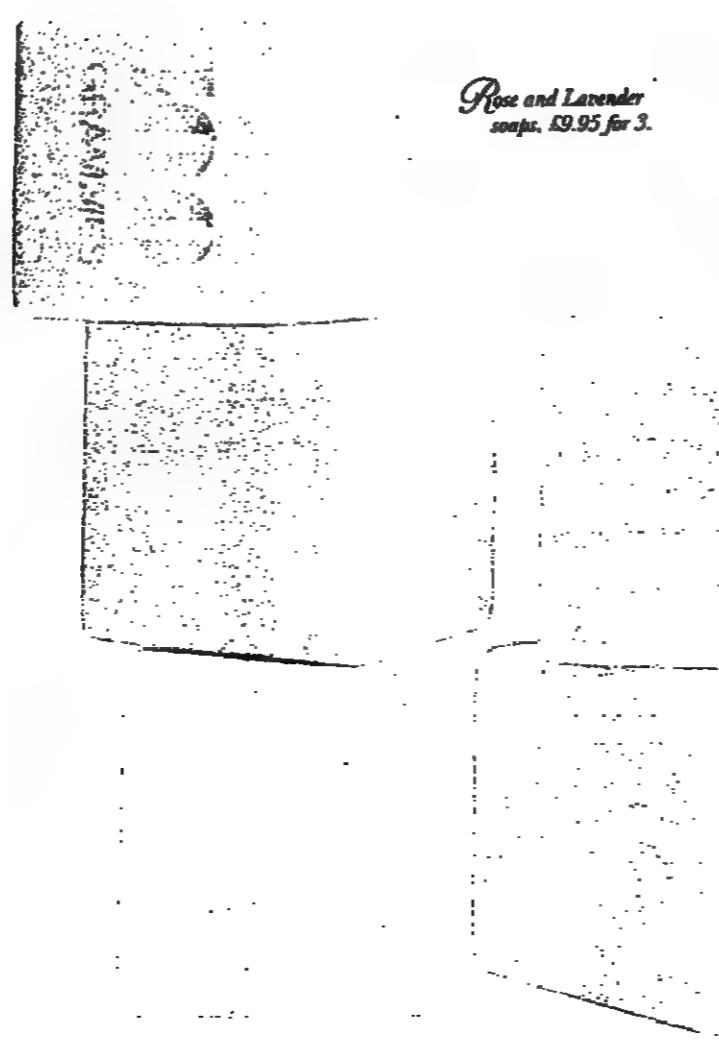


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# Kennedy revival fills Democrats with fresh hope

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A BIRTHDAY card from President Clinton is displayed prominently in the anteroom of Edward Kennedy's office on Capitol Hill. It reads simply: "Thanks for your friendship and for not losing heart this year when so many did."

Mr Clinton has much for which to thank the prominent scion of America's most famous political dynasty. As the President's poll ratings have soared, so too have his party's fortunes in the Senate. In no small part that is due to the extraordinary personal and political revival of Mr Kennedy, a man whose recent career has become a barometer for the Democrats' fortunes.

Two years ago the haggard, bloated and lacklustre senator was on the brink of losing the Massachusetts seat he had held for three decades. Tarnished by a reputation as playboy, rabble-rouser and bon vivant, he was thought broken for ever by the ill fate that had plagued the Kennedy family since the deaths of his two elder brothers.

His popularity had plummeted after William Kennedy Smith, his nephew, was charged with rape after a night of carousing in Palm Beach with Uncle Ted. Mr Smith was acquitted, but the entanglement merely seemed to confirm doubts about the senator's character while

the spectre of Chappaquiddick continued to haunt his electoral ambitions. In the summer of 1994 he had made a public apology for the episode in which Mary Jo Kopechne died after he had driven his Oldsmobile off the Dyke Bridge on the night of July 18, 1969. But even after his re-election later that year, when the Republicans gained control of both houses for the first time in 40 years, Mr Kennedy remained a sad figure, rarely courted other than for his name.

Fast forward to this year and the picture is altogether different. Mr Kennedy rarely drinks alcohol. He leaps out of bed at 6am to conquer the exercise treadmill and arrives at Capitol Hill hours before most of his staff. The suits that had strained to accommodate his bulk last year now look positively loose and the excess flesh has fallen from a face that once more reveals the famous Kennedy jawline.

With the help of his wife Victoria Reggie, a Washington lawyer, he married two years ago. Mr Kennedy appears finally to have exorcised the ghosts of his past and settled into a healthy routine of family life. "Basically, I am sort of back in shape or getting there," Mr Kennedy, 64, said recently. "I think I am more alert and able to put in long days and be more effective."



Zane Hollingsworth holds the Olympic flame aloft as he carries it on the Pony Express trail, from Julesburg, Colorado. A team of riders was carrying the flame from Colorado through Nebraska, on its way to Atlanta, Georgia, where the Games begin in July. High winds meant it had to be protected in a lamp.

## Gay marriages trap is set for Clinton

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE REPUBLICAN Congress is preparing a Bill banning government recognition of homosexual marriages as its latest ploy to embarrass President Clinton. The idea is Mr Clinton will either have to veto the

Defence of Marriage Act and offend millions of mainstream voters in an election year, or sign it and upset the gay community that overwhelmingly supported him in 1992.

"We fully expect the President ... to stand up to this gratuitous gay-bashing, and we will hold the President

accountable," said a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a homosexual lobbying group.

The White House said Mr Clinton opposed gay marriages but had yet to decide on the Bill, which Bob Dole, his Republican challenger, has jointly sponsored. To veto it would take enormous courage. The President and his advisers still vividly remember the drubbing he suffered for seeking to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military early in his presidency.

With six months to go before the presidential election, the race lacks any great overarching theme. Mr Dole is determined to portray Mr Clinton as "knee-deep in the swamps of liberalism". He denounces a handful of allegedly liberal judges appointed by Mr Clinton and demands a repeat of Mr Clinton's tiny 1993 increase in the petrol tax.

The President meanwhile is tacking progressively rightwards, and every other day he announces some initiative promoting conservative values.

## Dole challenges defence policies

BY TOM RHODES

REPUBLICANS fire an opening campaign salvo against President Clinton's defence policies this week by reviving the national debate over Star Wars, the anti-missile technology that embodied the bitter days of the Cold War.

Both houses of Congress are to debate legislation introduced by Senator Bob Dole, the Republican presidential nominee, which would force America to deploy a national missile defence system by 2003. Almost certain to pass Congress, the Defend America Act sets the stage for a battle with the White House over what Republicans say is Mr Clinton's inadequate commitment to defence.

Newt Gingrich, the Speaker, will sponsor the Act through the House of Representatives this week alongside a \$267 billion (£177 billion) military authorisation Bill. That contains \$13 billion more than the Pentagon requested and Mr Clinton, who vetoed the military authorisation Bill last year when it mandated a missile defence system, is expected to do so again.

Polls suggest fading Cold War memories have left Americans more concerned about the economy than defence, but Dole aides believe the debate will reinject the issue of character and leadership into a flagging campaign. In recent speeches, Mr Dole has said the President's lack of support for a missile system was proof of his military weakness.



Kubeck: pilot was one of 109 people who died

# Indian leader claim

Jet hunt given gun, guard for alligators

FROM QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

A POLICE sharpshooter stood guard yesterday over recovery workers at the marshy Florida crash site of the DC9, piloted by Candalyn Kubeck, that was lost on Saturday. The marksman's target: alligators.

The presence of an armed man illustrates the complexity and unpleasantness of the clean-up of Flight 592. The jet's "black box" flight recorder was retrieved by chance after a US Navy diver stepped on it. Sonar search machines had been unable to penetrate the murky, waist-high swamp waters of the Everglades.

The biggest piece of human remains to have been found so far is a kneecap. The bodies of the 109 victims, who included three Britons, were perhaps obliterated, maybe sucked into the mud, or swiftly devoured by the creatures that live in the dark marshes. In addition to the alligators, snakes and large mosquitoes, recovery workers have had to contend with the tall saw grass, so called because its blades are as sharp as a sword. Brush against it accidentally and you are left with a deep gash.

The crash split hundreds of gallons of aircraft fuel into the stagnant waters, further complicating the task faced by the divers, who have had to don stinging protective suits and whose time in the water is limited to 20 minutes. Underwater visibility is limited to a couple of inches and the mud and muck of rotting vegetation sometimes become so glutinous that fit men can barely move. Through this stinking biological soup the alligators move with ease, hunting for more human flesh.

Experienced workers have been left demoralised and disturbed by the investigation. Robert Francis, the vice-chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said: "This is tough stuff out there. They are having to dress up in bio-hazard equipment, gloves, then putting on large rubber suits on top of that, and masks." To make matters worse, tornados have been forecast for Florida.

## Everest spar

# Most e work h



## DIARY OF A SURVIVOR AGED 8½

February I don't know why I am here. I think my Papa sold me to the boss to learn a trade and now the boss says I must do exactly what he tells me.

March It's the same every day. We go from our beds to the loom at six. No-one must talk. We tie tiny knots all day, the smallest ones on the carpet because we have small fingers. Work, work, work. My fingers crack and weep and sometimes my eyes get all blurred. We get a cup of dahl and half an hour to rest then go back to the loom till night time. There is no more food. We are too tired to play.

April Paro talked today and the boss lashed her with the cane. He shouted at us "If you children speak you are not giving your whole attention to the product."

May My fingers bled again and the boss got angry with me for getting blood on the loom. He says I will work extra hours for the next two days and I will be fined and that will increase my father's debt to him. I cried when he talked about Papa.

June The boy who lost a hand, poor Rangali, he fainted today. We begged the boss to open the window. "The mud walls are hot sir. The thermometer says 105 sir." But the window stays shut to keep out the insects that eat the wool.

July Not much light gets through the polythene stats in the roof. It's hard to see the pattern. I made mistakes today and I'm frightened what will happen when the boss finds out.

August In bed tonight, Nageshwar told me his plan to escape. He is brave but he is bigger than me. He said we live worse

This diary is based on interviews with Madan Ram and other children recently working in carpet factories in Uttar Pradesh, India.

These children have been rehabilitated with the help of Christian Aid, but in India alone an estimated 15 million children still spend their entire childhoods slaving in bonded labour to help their parents out of debt.

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# Moscow plans pact with Belorussia if Nato expands

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

RUSSIA threatened Nato yesterday with a new military alliance between Moscow and neighbouring Belorussia if the Western organisation went ahead to recruit new members from Eastern Europe.

General Pavel Grachev, the Russian Defence Minister, who is strongly opposed to Nato's expansion plans, envisaged Russian troops serving alongside those of Belorussia in the former Soviet republic.

The warning was seen in London as another round in Moscow's continuing campaign to thwart Nato's plans to allow countries such as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to join the alliance, although not until the turn of the century.

General Grachev was quoted by Interfax in Moscow as saying that President Lukashenko of Belorussia backed a military alliance with Russia if Nato went ahead with its expansion plans. The general referred to the creation of a "powerful" Russian-Belorussian military group on the territory of Belorussia, according to Interfax.

Russia and Belorussia "are ready to undertake reciprocal measures in reply to the possible expansion of Nato eastwards", the Russian Defence Minister said. Moscow was particularly concerned

about the possible entry of Poland and Lithuania into the Western alliance, because of Russia's Baltic military enclave of Kaliningrad.

In the meantime, Western diplomats at the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva expressed confidence yesterday that a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty would be signed by the end of next month.

David Davis, the Foreign Office Minister, who spoke at the conference yesterday, said a test ban treaty would impose real constraints on all the declared nuclear powers, including Britain. He added: "This is the price which we are prepared to pay because we believe that a universal and effectively verifiable treaty can make an important contribution to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons."

At present, India is still holding out for an agreement under which a test ban treaty would be signed only if the five official nuclear weapons countries — America, Russia, Britain, France and China — committed themselves to a programme of nuclear disarmament. China also wants to continue with "peaceful nuclear explosions". However, British diplomats expect India and China to sign a comprehensive ban. China said yesterday it was prepared to show flexibility on its demand.

## Britain backs chemicals ban

Geneva: David Davis, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, last night announced Britain's formal ratification of the chemical weapons convention which bans the development, production, stockpiling and use of an entire class of weapons (Peter Capella writes).

The convention also establishes the most comprehensive verification system ever created for such a regime. It will enter into force six months after it has been ratified by 65 countries. So far, 50 nations — including Germany, Canada and New Zealand — have ratified it.



Spanish beau and his Southern belle: Crown Prince Felipe and, in New York, Giselle "Gigi" Howard



## Spanish heir eyes a Georgia peach

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN  
IN MADRID  
AND QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

SPANISH royal-watchers are abuzz with speculation that Crown Prince Felipe, 28, may soon announce his engagement to an American "Southern belle".

The heir to the throne met Giselle Howard, 24, psychology student, last year while studying for a Masters degree in international relations at Washington's Georgetown University. Miss Howard, who lives in New York and is known as "Gigi" to family and friends, is the daughter of a telecommunications company executive in Georgia.

Rumours of an announcement soon have been fuelled by Miss Howard's recent secret visit to Madrid, revealed by *Tiempo*, probably to meet the King and Queen.

Miss Howard is expected to be called as a witness in a Manhattan court next month by prosecution lawyers in the trial of a paparazzo accused of plotting to bug the phone line at her New York flat. Carlos Arriazu, of Florida, hoped to capitalise on tapes of Miss Howard talking to her royal boyfriend, it is alleged.

Georgia appears relaxed, or perhaps is simply unaware, that one of its "peaches" has a chance to become the first American to marry European royalty since Grace Kelly caught the eye of Monaco's Prince Rainier.

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who applied for degree courses last year were offered places compared with the UCAS average of 85%. Our simple equation means that every student will be given an equal opportunity to achieve their full potential. If you're still struggling with it, perhaps you should sign up for a GNVQ yourself. BTEC. IT'S AN EDUCATION.

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## Imports leave French gourmets choking over their truffles

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE traditionalists of French gastronomy are fighting a valiant rearguard action to ensure that the country's greatest delicacies, from mustard to truffles, are produced in France.

Almost all the seeds in the celebrated Dijon mustard are imported from Canada, the great black truffle of the Dordogne is facing stiff competition from Chinese rivals, and French viticulteurs are battling a swelling tide of wines from the Antipodes and America.

For some purists, the influx of what are considered traditional French foods from foreign parts is even more insidious than the erosion of the French language feared by the Académie Française.

The three biggest mustard-makers in France have now banded together with the Agriculture Ministry in a project to develop a high-yield strain of mustard that would be

viable for French farmers and turn the fields of Burgundy yellow again.

Agricultural production of mustard virtually died out in the Dijon region two decades ago, as farmers found it more economical to grow other crops, and makers of the condiment turned to mass mustard-producers in North America.

More than £1 million has been spent on research so far and the consortium hopes to have 12,500 acres under production in the Dijon region, meeting almost one-third of French mustard needs by 2000. An additional lure is the prospect of creating an *appellation contrôlée* system similar to that for wine, cider and camembert, which would guarantee that the product was "Dijon mustard from Burgundy", as distinct from Dijon mustard from Saskatchewan.

Revitalising the French

truffle industry is an even more daunting task since science has yet to reveal the secret of how to grow them, although the French Government is financing research. In recent years the price of French truffles has steadily risen as the quantity has declined. A black truffle cost as much £180 a pound.

Trying to persuade French farmers to plant oak trees and then wait to see if the elusive fungus appears in the roots is even harder than convincing them to turn back to mustard.

However, if France cannot produce enough of its own truffles, it is certainly not going to stand idle while entrepreneurs from Eastern Europe or China fill the gap.

Some experts insist that a non-French truffle is a contradiction in terms and insipid to boot, but already, as *The Economist* reported recently, there is talk of "truffle quenos" in the south of France.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY

Letter

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For a great fun half-term ho  
You visit Nausicaa sea-work

STILL THE FAST

Letter describes ordeal of 19 detainees as Shell faces new pressure over Saro-Wiwa hanging

## Ogoni activists in plea to West over Nigeria 'frame-up'

BY MICHAEL DYNES

THE appalling conditions in which a group of Ogoni detainees have languished in prison for two years, charged with complicity in murder, have been disclosed in documents passed to *The Times*.

A handwritten letter smuggled out of Nigeria's infamous Port Harcourt jail by a guard describes how the prisoners are being kept in a cramped, vermin-infested cell, where the only water available has been contaminated by decaying human remains.

The guard was bribed by the prisoners to take the letter out to highlight their desperate plight.

Their disclosures coincide with the annual general meeting in London and The Hague today of Shell, which is expected to reignite the international storm of protest that followed the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Ogoni minority rights activist, in the wake of his campaign against the oil giant's operations in Nigeria. Shell is accused of despoiling parts of the Niger delta, transforming it into a modern-day "Dante's Inferno" as a result of reckless drilling for oil, and disregarding the devastation caused to the environment from oil and gas leaks. The oil company is said to have close links with the military regime of General Sani Abacha.

The letter's signatories, appealing for international pressure to help to secure the release of the 19 Ogoni detainees, say they were arrested in May 1994, and "framed up" for the murder of four tribal leaders. They have yet to come to trial.

The four were bludgeoned

to death by an irate mob after bitter internal rivalries between moderates and hardliners within the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (Moso).

Independent observers say that the Nigerian military authorities, who have been accused of exploiting the murders in an effort to discredit Moso, failed to prove that Saro-Wiwa ordered the murders. Similar doubts have also been cast on the guilt of the remaining 19 detainees.

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The letter, which was

passed to the Body Shop, which has backed the Ogoni cause, said: "Here we are held, incommunicado in an over-crowded and ill-ventilated cells, measuring 20x28 metres with more than 120 inmates sleeping... on ricks, lice, and bedbug-ridden mats."

The letter adds: "We are only allowed to take our bath twice a week from a well which was until recently a dumping pit for death [sic] inmates and still contains human skeletons." The well "is the source of our drinking water", and many prisoners are suffering from "skin disease, eczema, and ringworm" as a result. The prisoners say

welcomed Shell's recent commitment to redress Ogoni grievances. "But the company must now put pressure on the Government to bring about their release, otherwise the Ogoni people can have no faith in Shell," he added.

He also complained that the Nigerian military had been coercing Ogoni people to sign documents inviting Shell to return to the area and promising not to obstruct the company's activities.

Before he was hanged on November 10, 1995, the first day of the Commonwealth conference in New Zealand, Saro-Wiwa had accused Shell

of carrying out a "slow geno-

cide" of the Ogoni people and despoiling their lands. Vast wealth had been extracted from the mineral-rich region, virtually none of which had been passed on to the Ogoni people, he said.

Anita Roddick, founder of the Body Shop, who has championed the Ogoni cause over the past three years, said she was outraged by the letter from the Ogoni 19. "We will fight to stop them suffering the same fate as Ken Saro-Wiwa," she said. "Shell failed to save

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# Make decadent waves

Grace Bradberry finds out what's hot and what's not on the beach this summer

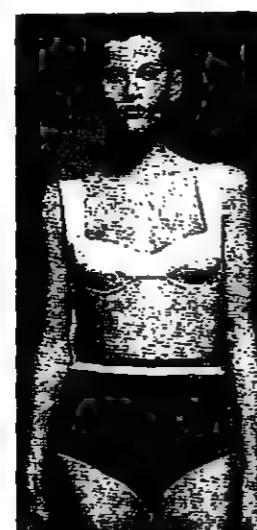


Triumph Amourette two-piece with detachable straps (£39) and Amourette one-piece with Lycra (£45)

## OFF THE CATWALK



Hermes: white Lycra cutaway suit



Fermé: blue and white two-piece



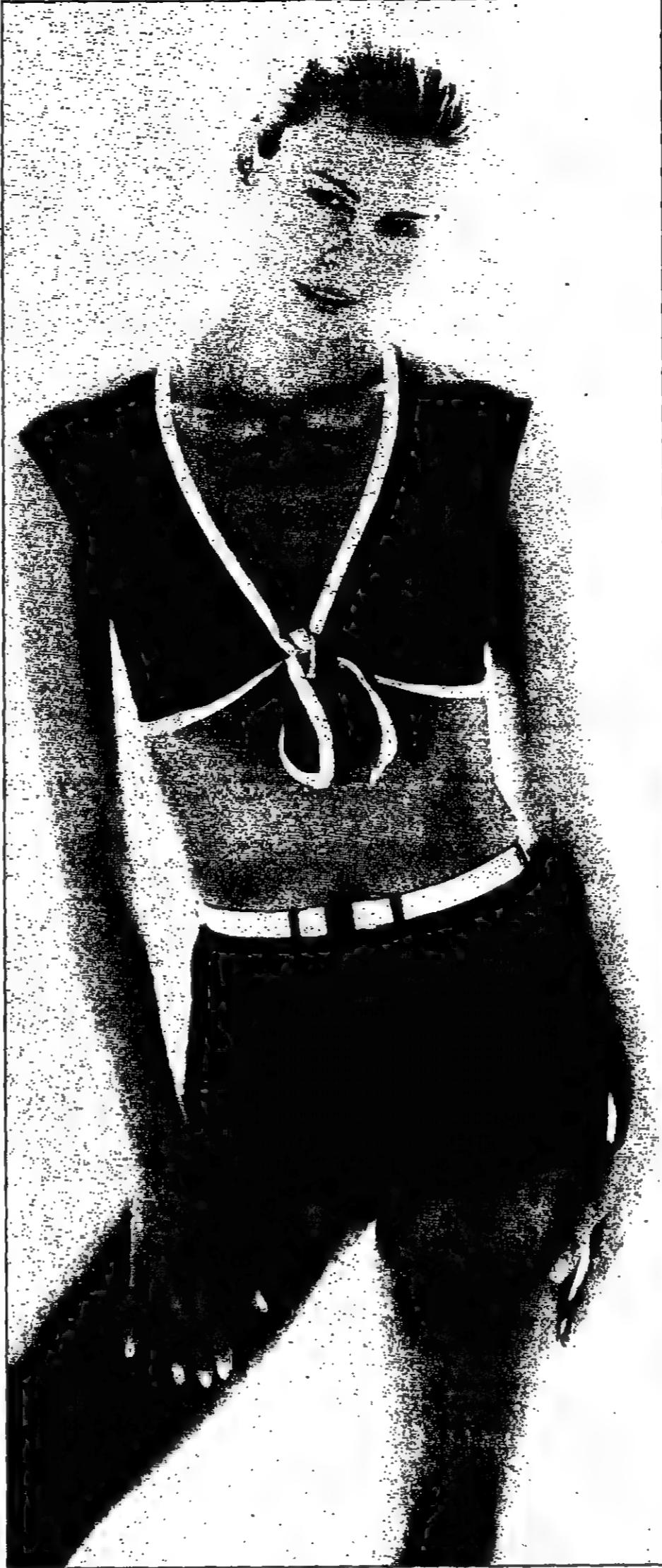
Bhs black sports bikini top (£10) and black bikini swim skirt (£12) from the mix and match range



Bella Freud: Fifties-inspired bikini



Iceberg: lime print bikini



Marks & Spencer tie front bikini top (£10) and high-leg brief (£10). Belted one-piece with boy-legs and conventional one-piece also available



HERE COMES  
summer  
DAY THREE



way in which a sense of fun, even decadence, has returned to beachwear.

Versace led the way last year with a collection of towelling separates decorated with kitsch fruit designs. This summer Bella Freud produced her own interpretation of the look: a bold red, white and green fruit design.

Two-tone suits with contrasting edging also made the transition from the catwalk to the shops. But while Iceberg's green and white striped bikini, with white tipping, harked back to the Fifties and was resolutely kitsch, Marks & Spencer opted for good taste. Its black and white Riviera-style swimwear looked back to the Thirties.

Sam Teran

claims these styles are more wearable than they might look. "String bikinis may be unforgiving," she says, "but if you team them with a little skirt they allow you to tan the top half, but not feel exposed."

The high street chains have picked up a handful of the striking shapes and patterns that appeared on the catwalk for this summer. Boy-legged swimsuits, string bikinis teamed with skirts or shorts, and hipster-bikinis are the key silhouettes.

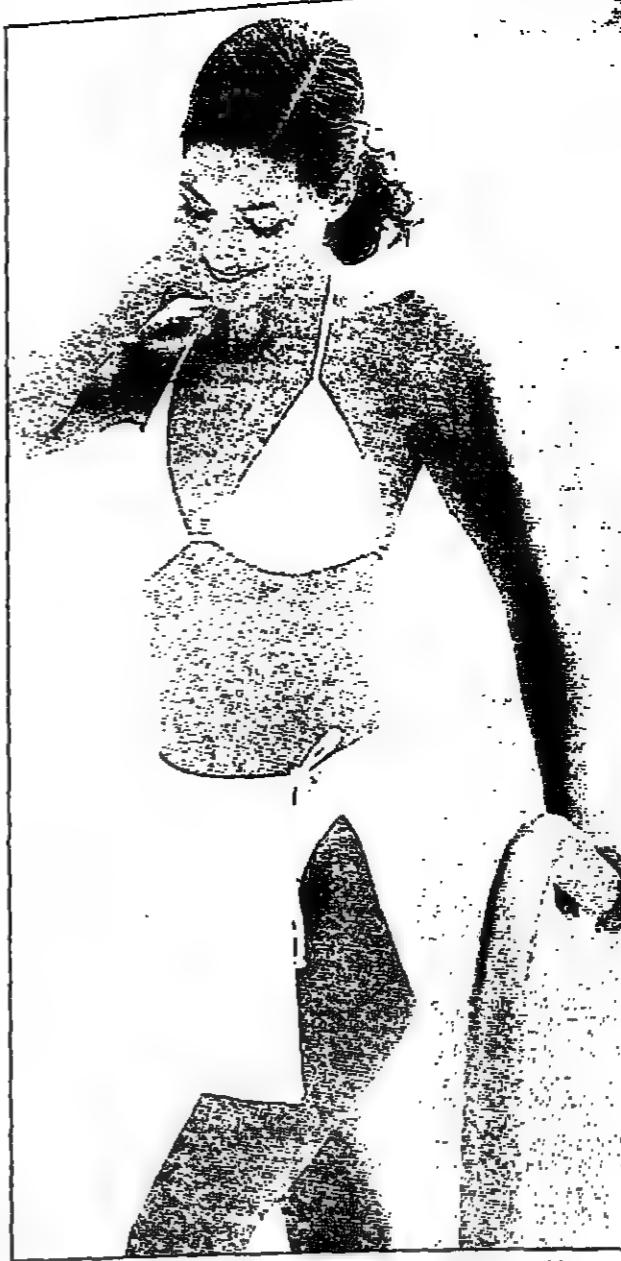
Some of the references verge on parody. One or two designers have clearly watched *Dr No* recently, and the image of Ursula Andress emerging from the waves looks large. Archive photographs of bright young things before the war also find an echo.

Ultimately, of course, it is the customer who decides what makes it onto the beach. Knickerbox is selling more bikinis than anything, and

most designers and some high street chains (among them Bhs, Marks & Spencer and Dorothy Perkins) have introduced mix-and-match ranges.

On the page, overtly retro styles can give a false impression, says Jo Dyson, swimwear buyer for Harrods. She has been distressed to see women with larger thighs squeezing into the boy-leg styles. "People see them in magazines and decide that it's a flattering shape. But actually they look good only on the very slim-legged," she says. In the end, it is the under-25s who are buying the retro-styles.

One of the most exciting features this summer is the



Next/Next Directory baby pink towelling string bikini (£19.99) and skirt (£9.99)



Knickerbox fruit print swimsuit (£27.50), also available in underwired bikini (£25)

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## How w pale a

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# Is the lord really playing God?

Lord Winston's offer of treatment to an HIV-positive woman has been widely condemned. But is it perhaps his critics who are arrogant?

**S**cene: Outside the Pearly Gates. One doctor, newly deceased, approaches and is forbidden entry. He remonstrates, but to no avail. After a while a second doctor comes up and is also turned away. The same happens to a third doctor. The three are standing resentfully outside the portals when a fourth doctor sweeps up, his white coat flapping, his stethoscope like a medallion against his chest. St Peter rushes to open the gates and the doctor is ushered through them. The three rejected doctors complain: after all, why should that doctor be allowed through when their credentials were not deemed worthy. "Oh," says St Peter, "that's God, he just thinks he's a doctor!" Perhaps

there is a bit too much of the student revue about that joke, but I can see why doctors might laugh ruefully at it. I'm not sure, right at the moment, how funny Professor Lord Winston could find it. There is scarcely a commentator who doesn't disapprove of his decision to give infertility treatment to a woman with HIV. And all of them condemn him for "playing God".

We all have a clear idea what we mean by the idea of "playing God" but I don't believe the concept makes sense. After all, if we believe that doctors are appropriating divine status whenever they give treatment that attempts to change the course of nature, then the only logical response we have, all of us, is to become Christian Scientists.

Not many people would think of accusing a doctor of playing God if he removed an appendix, and yet without intervention anyone with appendicitis might well die of it. Unless we are quite half way round

the bend already, we don't accuse a doctor who thus saves someone's life of arrogantly presuming to do God's job better than he is doing it himself.

I'm sure that in many cultures the very idea of a heart transplant operation would seem shocking — positively blasphemous — but in our culture we would generally regard such a reaction as primitive. So, why, whenever a doctor does something of which we disapprove do we accuse him or her of arrogance, of playing God? There seems to be rather more arrogance in assuming that our opinions are one and the same with God's will.

As a committed atheist, I can see that my views on a non-existent God's putative plan are not to the point, but in medicine, God tends to be invoked not so much as a deity with a particular project, so much as the moral force of nature. But medicine must often argue with nature: infertility treatment itself would have no place in a world that thought that doctors had no business meddling with the state in which people find themselves naturally.

Now, I may not be religious, but Lord Winston is, and as a devout man, he is entirely satisfied that his behaviour is not contrary to the strictures of what is a pretty exiguous faith. His article yesterday was persuasive: for him it would have been unethical to let prejudice prevent his treating his patients, and whatever else. Professor

Winston is a man of integrity. On learning of the case, I couldn't help but spontaneously disapprove. On reading his account, I don't necessarily change my mind, but I see that his reasons for offering



Professor Lord Winston: scarcely a commentator doesn't disapprove of his decision to give infertility treatment to a woman with HIV

treatment were honourable; those who condemn him as a publicity-hungry controversialist discredit only themselves.

Surely we should all accept that he is in a better position — from his clinical experience and his deeper knowledge of this particular case — to decide what he thinks is the right thing.

And yet, and yet... as much as a doctor believes that his duty lies in treating patients without prejudice, there are always choices. Unfortunately many of these choices recently have purported to be ethical ones when in reality the considerations

have primarily been financial. Many of those who have been rejected as unsuitable for IVF must be smarting at Lord Winston's decision. Perhaps it would have been better for them to have been told in the first place that it was simply lack of funds which prevented their having the treatment.

Doctors do, on the whole, feel better justifying their decisions *morally*; so often an unattractive amount of pontificating on and judging of potential patients does go on. But at other times, some sort of cold appraisal must be necessary. Lord Winston is right to say

that none of us can presume to know who will or will not make a good parent, but even he must acknowledge that prospective IVF patients must be subject to some sort of scrutiny. And things aren't so very clear-cut: to withhold fertility treatment from someone with a short life expectancy can be both cruel and justified at the same time.

But the hardest part of Lord Winston's job must be in turning people away. I don't see how you could do what he does and not want to treat everyone. Those of us who have never needed to seek the help

of someone like him, should be less ready to pronounce so brusquely. A familiar theme of his detractors is the selfish insistence of every woman that she has a "right" to have a child, but I have yet to hear any infertile women speak of demanding her rights. Rather the talk, unbearably moving, is about passionate desire and yearning.

These are desperate women who are prepared to take desperate measures. We might disagree with them, we might wish to condemn them, but I really feel we should try, at the same time, to understand them.

**Sporting strife, continued**

I WILL defend the BBC and the licence fee that subsidises it until my last breath, but I could have wished to find my loyalty a little less stretched.

A week or so ago I railed against the idiotic prominence given to sport and at the insistence that the games boys play have a wide-reaching significance that we must all respect. Well, things never get any better. Now, it appears, the BBC has paid unprecedented sums just so that our every waking hour — and some of our sleeping ones — will be filled this summer with football matches, obscure Olympic events and other sporting occasions.

Soap operas, sitcoms, regular programmes must all be shunted aside to make way for this saturation coverage, but just in case you could even think of accusing the BBC of blokeishness, it has decided to demonstrate its good faith by promising that female presenters will feature prominently in these programmes. If anything were proof of puerility, this would be it.

The strangest thing is that the BBC and ITV appear to be in cahoots over this. Now, I know that what drives them into each other's arms is fear of cable sport, after all, is what lures people to satellite TV. But I think this move might well send the rest of us over.

**A campaign lost in the haze**

A REPORT — admittedly one financed by the tobacco industry — is just out that declares there to be no link between passive smoking and cancer. Of course, one would want to make sure such findings were bona fide, but presuming they are, surely it comes as something as a relief.

It would, after all, be good news. But not for the anti-smoking lobby, which is furious at the very suggestion that other people's tobacco smoke might not give innocent bystanders painful, terminal illnesses.

You see, lung cancer is good for the anti-smoking brigade in much the same way that an oil slick is good for environmentalists. Too much good intent can evidently warp the mind.

## How we left a medium pale and frightened

I have tried to like *The X-Files*. For several weeks I have sat in front of the television at the appointed hour, willing myself to believe that there is something out there — but to no avail. Tosh, says a voice in my head. Rubbish. Green slime from the special-effects department comes cheap.

When I was younger I sat around the odd campfire too, listening, in the crepuscular evening, to tales of long-dead pioneers who could still be seen in these very woods. I didn't like to say that it might just be the wind in the pines for fear of breaking the mood. I tried the harder stuff: M. R. James and *The Shining* too, but remained what I am still today: a sceptic, unwilling to accept notions of other worlds, parallel universes, spirits and sprites until I am offered the kind of evidence that fills test-tubes and makes pie-charts.

Which is why I don't know what to do with — how to categorise — my memories of Betty Shine.

Betty is a medium. The very word makes me, and legions of other sceptics, I am sure, roll the eyes in exasperation. I think myself far too hard-headed for that kind of nonsense. But I met Betty some years ago, and although you may argue that 16 is an impressionable age, or that a teenager's memory is a volatile, unreliable thing, it is hard to explain what I know happened that afternoon.

There were five of us: myself, my beloved friend, her sister, her cousin, and Betty.



**W**hat the clairvoyant Betty Shine saw one night had a dramatic effect upon her, remembers Erica Wagner

We had gone to look at a house that Sister wanted to buy. She had heard that Betty was able to sense the auras of houses, and wanted to know whether it was a good house, a sick house, or whether it needed spiritual cleansing: she thought it would be a good thing to have Betty along.

Beloved Friend, Cousin and I thought this was somewhat cranky, but saw no harm in it, and off we went.

It was a beautiful afternoon. The house was deserted: Cousin picked the lock on the kitchen door to get us in. The last occupants, squatters, had left mannequins in the rooms, their peachy limbs at odd angles, their faces blankly affronted. I thought it was a creepy place; I would never have bought it. But, Betty pronounced it peaceful and pleasant, and pointing out of the window at an expanse of lawn, indicated where a pond and a well had once been.

Later we found the old plans of the house: she was right. We had gone to look at a house that Sister wanted to buy. She had heard that Betty was able to sense the auras of houses, and wanted to know whether it was a good house, a sick house, or whether it needed spiritual cleansing: she thought it would be a good thing to have Betty along.

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are 16, and I could hardly believe that what she said would matter. But when she spoke about my character and my past from what she saw — so it seemed — in the lines of my hand, she then seemed to be a true seer. How did she know what no one else around that table knew? About my parents, about my childhood, about the self that even at 16 one tries to keep hidden?

Even then I thought that it had to be some kind of trick, but how could such a trick have been accomplished? She was serene, and what she said was the truth. I stared at her, and looked hard at my hands, but there were no secrets there to my eyes. Betty writes about the Third Eye, and it doesn't mean much to me. But it is more than just a parlour-trick to be such a judge of character on an hour's acquaintance.

Finally it was the turn of Beloved Friend. Betty took Beloved Friend's hands in hers and turned them upward; and then she went quite white. She really did; just like it happens in novels, all the blood drained from her rosy face and she looked drawn, and a little frightened, and very embarrassed indeed. She looked at Beloved Friend as if she had seen the Devil. "These are your friends and family," said Betty, "I can't say anything, Not here." She let go of Beloved Friend's hands and they hung for an instant over the table like they did not belong to her. Then she tucked them back into her lap.

We were all embarrassed. We didn't know where to look. The afternoon was spoilt. But

no one said anything more and we went our separate ways: Betty left us and Cousin, Sister, Beloved Friend and I drove back to London in silence. For the most part I forgot about that afternoon. There were more important things to think about.

But I recalled it, some months later, when I fell out with Beloved Friend. A very polite and English phrase, "fell out": but it was more than that. Sometimes people drift apart: sometimes they argue; and sometimes the breaking of a friendship is a kind of seismic rift from which you never really recover, however

much you may heal. The whole landscape has changed and nothing is ever the same. It's a long story, and I don't claim to be blameless: but I remember Beloved Friend's hands hovering over the table, and Betty's pale face.

● *My Life as a Medium* by Betty Shine is published by Thorsons (HarperCollins) on May 20, price £15.99.

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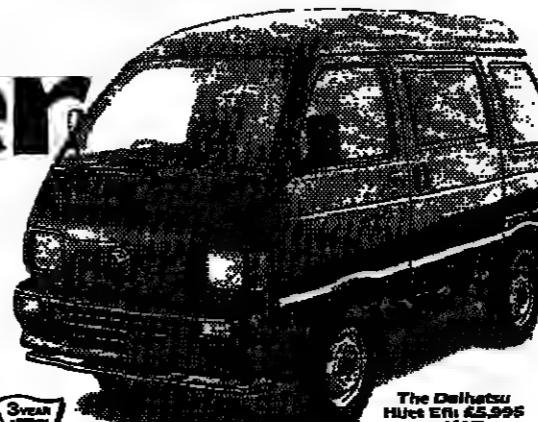
When Betty Shine spoke about my past and my character — about the self I tried to hide, she seemed a true seer

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■ The origin of species restoration is the descent of home into heritage

Unless you are the sort of crackpot fundamentalist who likes nothing better than to curl up in front of a roaring fireplace with the collected works of William Jennings Bryan, you must have been as distressed as I to learn that Down House was to be not merely restored to its original state, but preserved in that state for all eternity. Bought last week by English Heritage, the dear old pile (£705,000/1780) is doomed, over the next 12 months, to be tittered to pristine nick, thereafter to remain utterly unchanged. Forever.

That this should befall the hallowed bolt-hole where Charles Darwin dashed off *The Origin of Species* strikes me as quite appalling. Could there be a more flagrant insult to his memory, or a more cavalier rejection of all he was and did, than for a quango ex machina to stick its oar in with the express object of thwarting the evolutionary process which governs every British species of the genus *Residentia domesticus*? I looked at the snapshot accompanying the press coverage, and I tell you, Down House wobbled in my brimming tears. For it would never, now, develop fine marble cladding, never sprout a tasteful storm porch in elegant teak-veneered chipboard, graced on either side by handsome candle-mission-brass carriage lamps, never wake one morning to find a sumptuous granny-flat evolving through its roof, or a magnificent pre-cast aluminium conservatory burgeoning on its left flank to complement the chic jacuzzi sauna annex new-generated on its right. A triple-glazed mock-mullioned carriage port blessed with remote-controlled up-and-over doors? Forget it! A bespoke al fresco twin-level gas-fired barbecue pit surrounded by semi-circular neo-Hepplewhite all-weather seating for ten? Far chance! A thatched Portaplayroom extension befitting from indoor sandpit and paddling pool? Out of the question! For Down House is no longer part of The Descent of Home.

Look again at the snapshot and mark those sad old french windows, now artificially excluded forever from that process of natural selection — be it from a gorgeous full-colour brochure or simply thanks to the random chance of qualified representatives just happening to be in the neighbourhood — which would see them evolve into sleek anodised patio doors designed to slide open at the merest touch; thereby, of course, affording instant access not, as now, to some mangy wormcast lawn, but to elegantly tarmac-aimed off-street parking, girl with gleaming pole supporting halogen flood-lights and feigood CCTV to empower the householder to gaze out lovingly and confidently at his cherished 7-series BMW and 4WD Daihatsu, instead of at a load of tatty shrubs and bedders.

Tragic? It gets worse. Remember, friends, Down House is no ordinary residence, it is a monument, a shrine, an icon, a cultural landmark, and, being open to the public, it is thus bound to attract only visitors who would not touch it with a bargepole unless they were offered some more than the opportunity to stare at a spotty desk where an old bloke sat thinking about monkeys. Because it will not have escaped you that all such public attractions have also evolved, to the point where the survival of the fittest depends entirely upon value added. But English Heritage is determined to have none of this, either: not only is there to be no water-chute, no go-kart track, no Ferris-wheel, no karaoke bar, there has not even been any move to grasp what you and I would see as a golden opportunity for a daily chimpanzees' tea-party, with the guests dressed up in frock-coats, golden pince-nez, and stove-pipe hats, both to make some sort of thematic point — sponsored, no doubt, by Brooke Bond — and to encourage the sale of fluffy animals, or even fluffy biologists, at the Common Ancestor Gift Shoppe. Not that there will be a gift shop, of course, any more than there will be a jumbo takeaway facility offering juicy quarter-pound Beagleburgers, Kentucky fried dodo, and thick breadfruit shakes.

Put an ear to the ground: do you hear Charles Darwin spinning in his grave? His was a life spent proving that nothing stands still. Not even England's heritage.



## Accountable to nobody

The privatisation of the public utilities was a con — as Clare Spottiswoode's devastating five-year gas plan proves

Clare Spottiswoode is the Joan of Arc of privatisation. With a flaming gasolier in her hand and a mystic Ofgas rampant on her shield, she charges into the deepest siege. Fat cats, Sids, bulls and bears flee snarling into the forest. St Clare knows no fear. This week she gave every family in Britain an extra pound a week. She has justice, the BBC and the tabloids on her side. She is that mercenary of modern bureaucracy, the valiant utility regulator.

Anyone who believed Margaret Thatcher when she said she was privatising British Gas was a fool. She was raising cash while bringing the gas industry under more rigorous Whitehall control than ever before. Sure, she was asking the industries to give the public some profits as shareholders, rather than as consumers or taxpayers. But the only substantive change she made was in the role and status of the boss of the gas board.

That boss is not some titular chairman. It is Clare Spottiswoode. She is also non-parliamentary minister for gas. By comparison, the formal chairman, Richard Giordano, is a cipher. This week, Ms Spottiswoode revealed her devastating five-year plan for the distribution subsidiary of British Gas, known as TransCo. The plan is more detailed than anything imposed on the industry in "the bad old days" by Whitehall. Consider: the board's audited valuation of its own assets is halved; the permitted rate of return on these assets is cut; the plan cuts the depreciation allowed, cuts operating costs by 4 per cent and cuts the allowance for capital spending. Still beavering away, Ms Spottiswoode tells TransCo that she is slashing the prices it can charge the gas companies next year by a quarter. She is suppressing rises for the rest of the plan's period to five points less than the retail price index.

To the board of British Gas, this is the commercial equivalent of a nuclear wipe-out. Ms Spottiswoode has torn up their corporate plan and written her own. She has in effect branded the British Gas board as liars and their shareholders as gullible fools. Her views were diametrically opposed to his. She was also able to take advantage of politics. Yesterday's announcement seems to have been in part a response to the unpopularity of the British Gas board members. Like Shirley Porter in Westminster, they have given privatisation a bad name and their unpopularity by the short hairs. The board is her subcontractor, the agency of her whim.

When Ms Spottiswoode took over from Sir James McKinnon, the gas industry regarded it as a "change of government without an election". Her views were diametrically opposed to his. She was also able to take advantage of politics. Yesterday's announcement seems to have been in part a response to the unpopularity of the British Gas board members. Like Shirley Porter in Westminster, they have given privatisation a bad name and their unpopularity by the short hairs. The board is her subcontractor, the agency of her whim.

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Apart from signing the famously hard-nosed Connery, two other problems remain for the filmmakers. Trying to find a stadium which has the grim industrial feel of Old Trafford as it was 40 years ago has taken location scouts around Eastern Europe. Even the

grimmer lower division grounds in this country, it seems, have lost the grit of that era.

Then actors have to be found who can play football to a decent standard. Despite his cameo appearance in a French film last year, United's current idol, Eric Cantona, has been ruled out.

### Swotting up

THE Princess Royal is repaying favours on her children's behalf. She has showered Peter and Zara's school governors with invitations to a soirée at Holyrood house in Edinburgh.

The headmaster of Gordonstoun, Mark Pyper, has received his call-up after his sterling encouragement of Peter Phillips on the rugby field. Five Gordonstoun governors have also been invited for the night, along with the headmaster of Port Regis School in Shropshire when Peter and Zara were pupils. All have been invited to stop over at Holyrood during the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland next week.

• Trevor McDonald made a reluctant departure from a fancy lunch yesterday to launch the latest of the Dom Pérignon vintages from Moët & Chandon. "Any more of this," he burbled, swinging the dregs of a rare glass of

Transco's revenue by a fifth, she has induced its management to threaten 10,000 job losses, or half its workforce. Ms Spottiswoode is not so much playing Joan of Arc as playing God.

Except that she is not playing God.

She is playing that subtle mix of politics and control beloved of the British Civil Service. That culture was supposedly swept away by privatisation. The hidden assumption of yesterday's plan is simple: TransCo, though ostensibly a private company, must have its balance sheet and its profit and loss account determined by a government official.

The late Nicholas Ridley's celebrated

boss has proved true: "Utilities which we intend to privaise are more easily controlled when they are in the private sector."

Ridley meant Treasury control. What has happened is regulator control. The curiosity of Ms Spottiswoode's position is that she is beyond control. She need not conform to any central plan. She can be as subjective as she likes. For instance, the Government wants her to surcharge gas profits to support a public trust set up to promote energy conservation. This project, pledged at the Rio summit, is beloved of ministers. Ms Spottiswoode dislikes it and refuses to levy the surcharge. I am not aware of her democratic mandate for this. But she need not care. She has one of Britain's biggest companies by the short hairs. The board is her subcontractor, the agency of her whim.

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## FERTILE WITH ERROR

Voice of humanity against the voice of vested interests

No one could fail to feel sympathy for a childless couple, desperate to have their own baby. There are undoubtedly couples who, knowing that one or other partner is a carrier for a fatal disease or severe disability, decide to take the gamble of pregnancy in the hope that they will have a normal child. Society leaves the decision to them, and underwrites the medical and other costs, which can be considerable, of caring for the child should it prove to have inherited the genetic defect.

From there, it may seem a short step to justify the use of medical science to induce pregnancy in an infertile woman who has a disease which is almost always fatal, and also highly communicable to her child, on the ground that even if external intervention is involved, the decision whether to proceed should still ultimately be up to the parents and not to society. That is the essence of Professor Lord Winston's defence of his decision to give *in-vitro* fertilisation (IVF) treatment to Sheila, an HIV-positive patient, and to offer it to other HIV-positive women.

It is, on the contrary, a gigantic step – and a step too far. The distinction is one of accessory before, rather than after the fact, between mitigating the ills inflicted by nature and scientifically creating a problem. It is one thing for a doctor to help a patient in trouble by making the best of a bad job; if blood tests reveal that an already pregnant woman is HIV-positive, for example, she will be told and given the option of abortion, but put under no pressure to do so. But it is quite another matter for a doctor deliberately to create the possibility of bringing into the world an HIV-positive child, and one whose mother is likely to die in its infancy.

Most IVF units decline to treat parents liable to transmit the most severely disabling or fatal diseases to their baby. In the interest of the child, Professor Winston's unit screens IVF eggs for cancer and other diseases such as cystic fibrosis, to reduce or eliminate these known risks from assisted pre-

nancies. Screening for HIV is not possible. Professor Winston puts the risk of transmission to the baby at a minimum of 7 per cent; the Western average for non-IVF births to HIV-positive mothers is 15-20 per cent.

A coefficient of forces may be at work here, as medical interest in an experiment which could tell scientists more about AIDS meets the pseudo-ethics of political correctness. It is unlikely to produce a public good. "Yes, the child might die of AIDS," Professor Winston wrote yesterday on the page opposite. To die of AIDS is so unpleasant that the thought of assisting the creation of a child at risk of being born under such a death sentence ought surely to be unconscionable.

It might die after its mother, too. Professor Winston insists that his patients must be otherwise healthy and have carried HIV for eight or more years without contracting AIDS. A patient like Sheila might, as he hopes, live several years before succumbing to AIDS; but she might not. The chances of her escaping it entirely remain so small as to be statistically insignificant.

When HIV was first identified and its scale known, campaigners rightly insisted on "equal treatment" for AIDS victims. The pendulum has now swung too far; sensible treatment of HIV-sufferers is bedevilled by positive discrimination. Professor Winston cites the support of his local ethics committee; but why should IVF treatment be ethical for HIV sufferers yet frowned upon for those with other diseases, and indeed for totally fit women in their forties? This treatment was not on the NHS; but that should not license irrationality: and the real costs to society of caring for an HIV-positive child also have to be factored in. Professor

Winston expresses astonishment at the "seemingly prejudiced" reaction of his team when he put the question to them. They argued not that this treatment was too costly, but that it was too grave a gamble with the life of a child. There was not the voice of prejudice, but of common humanity.

## SORRY IS THE HARDEST WORD

But 'it hurt' has been hard for the Tories too

Yes, it hurt. But will it work? After some agonising, the Tories have taken the decision to come clean(s)h with the voters. Posters will go up all over Britain in the next few weeks admitting that the recession and subsequent tax rises caused people to suffer; but claiming that the medicine led to recovery. This campaign has been long in the conception. It may not achieve the necessary recovery in popularity. But it is the best chance that the Conservatives have.

When Tory politicians claim to voters that the economic uplands are sunlit, people cannot disguise their contempt. Laughter is the most positive emotion that greets such a message. What voters say they want is for the governing party first to acknowledge the pain of the early 1990s, the high mortgage rates and the broken tax promises. Until that admission has been made, ministers' words invite little more than derision.

If anything will win the Tories the next election, it will be Britain's economic performance. But the correlation between disposable income and voting intentions is not as automatic as Michael Heseltine appears to think. Before voters will be willing to switch their loyalty back to the Conservative Party, they have both to recognise the economic recovery and to give the Government credit for it. This poster campaign is designed to provide the wiring that will reconnect economic optimism with support for the Conservatives.

These posters are planned as the first in a three-stage campaign. After the acknowledgement of pain we can expect more good economic news; then the traditional "don't let Labour ruin it" message. Several million pounds will be spent over the summer, and

more will be needed for the phoney war that will follow. The hope of Central Office is that success will feed on itself. As the opinion polls improve, potential benefactors may scent at least the chance of victory. Then it will be easier to persuade them that their money is not being poured down the drain.

In the old days, getting such a message across was both cheaper and more effective. Partisan sections of the press could be relied upon to disseminate the Tory view, lending editorial respectability to what could otherwise be dismissed as partisan claims. Now even loyalist newspapers are less loyal. Ministers available for TV performances are either jaded or nonentities or both. Advertising, therefore, may be the only means of touching hearts and minds.

But will it work? "Never apologise, never explain" has been the guiding principle of politicians down the ages. It also infuriates most people. In this campaign, the Conservatives have gone against the latter axiom; they have not quite addressed the former. "Yes, it hurt" is not quite the same as saying sorry.

Ministers are still claiming that the high interest rates and tax rises were necessary merely because of the world recession. In fact, they were caused by bad economic management, profligate spending and a determination to remain in the ERM long after it was clear that such a policy was bad for Britain.

Sophisticated voters will spot this omission. They may not be mollified even now.

But this campaign is still a sensible initiative. It will not guarantee that the Tories win the election. But without it, they would not have had a hope.

## LATIN INTO ENGLISH

Lighter thoughts from our darkest hour

Why did the Romans invade Britain? Once here, why did they not finish the job? Anyone seeking answers to questions which are still pertinent to our continental relationships should thank the Weston Foundation for its £1.75 million gift to the British Museum yesterday. A core part of our heritage will at last have a brighter home.

There is much scholarly argument about why Julius Caesar came to Britain in 55 BC. Most probably he came because he needed new victories to keep himself in power in Rome. Only something more impressive than mere Gallic War would stop his enemies taking away his legions and putting a dagger in his back 11 years earlier than they did.

His propagandists, however, had to claim that economic arguments justified the two brief invasions and a costly Channel fleet, the like of which would not be seen again for 20 centuries. This first attempt to put Britain under European sway was backed by tales of an island stuffed with precious metals: in fact, there were hunting-dogs, slaves and wood. But that did not matter to Caesar, who, like later integrationists, preferred to cloak political aims in economic guise.

Even this device was not a big success. While his first sortie across the Channel won triumphant excitement at Rome, the second was seen for the waste that it truly was. When he left, the islands had not been half conquered. Those "friendly" Britons left

behind were patently self-interested, unrepresentative and unreliable. Caesar had to recoup his popularity with bread and circuses paid for by serious loot from Gaul.

It was 100 years before the Romans returned. The focus of the British Museum collection is on the following centuries, during which Britons found their first heroine, Boadicea, their first famous wall, Hadrian's, and their first official North-South divide: Septimius Severus, putting politics before geography, called the bit of England close to the continent "superior" and the northern zones "inferior".

Septimius had his own special grudge against Britain because its then military boss, Clodius Albinus, had challenged him unsuccessfully for Europe's top job. Septimius saw these islands as Jacques Sante might perhaps see the home of his own challenger for the presidency of the European Commission, Sir Leon Brittan. The subsequent division of Britain was the first occasion on which the great continents saw us as a genuine source of threat.

But still there was no real profit for the Roman state. Tax as they might, the cost of these islands was greater than the reward. So, once the political initiative collapsed, there was nothing to keep the invaders here. Like the last Britons of the Raj in years to come, they finally left for home, complaining about how standards at Rome had fallen while they were away.

## Failure of private anti-stalking Bill

From Mr A. T. Lawson-Cruttenden

Sir, As the advisor to Mrs Jane Anderson, MP, on the legal drafting of her anti-stalking Bill, I believe that the Government's failure to support this Bill (report, May 11) raises a number of constitutional issues.

Parliament (which is electorally accountable) enacts the law, and the courts (which are not) apply Parliament's law to each case. The purpose of law is the preservation of the Queen's peace. Enforcement is left to the police, who are independent of the Government. These are the traditional constitutional "checks and balances".

The need for the Bill is obvious. The police are not effectively prosecuting stalkers under the existing law. The courts are unable to convict them. Stalkers undoubtedly harass and molest their victims. Anarchy exists in this area.

The Government objected that the offence of stalking was too widely drafted. Consequently there is no law and the courts have no power to deal with this area of behaviour. In effect, the Government is not prepared to trust its courts to interpret broad legislation in proper and judicial manner.

Consequently, the challenge must lie with the courts to widen the existing law as quickly and as effectively as possible. We have already seen a conviction for "psychological grievous bodily harm" (report, March 5) which did not involve assault by its ordinary definition. Other convictions for wider offences must surely follow if the courts are to address the vacuum left by the Government.

Yours etc,  
TIMOTHY LAWSON-CRUTTENDEN  
(Solicitor Advocate),  
Lawson-Cruttenden & Co,  
17 Red Lion Square, WC1.

May 13.

From Mrs Evonne von Heussen

Sir, Using the proposals of the National Anti-Stalking and Harassment Campaign and Support Association (Nash) as a blueprint, the Home Office began developing anti-stalking legislation two years ago. Clearly, the Government's reaction to Janet Anderson's Bill is far from the point-scoring she has claimed it to be. Of the positive responses from the 649 MPs whom we approached for support, 70 per cent were Conservative, 17 per cent were Labour and 13 per cent came from other parties.

Without consultation with us, Mrs Anderson used our proposals yet provided an ineffective and unenforceable Bill. From the outset Nash has tried to keep the issue of stalking non-partisan by seeking assistance and support from all quarters. We feel it is unfortunate that the issue has now become a political football.

Yours faithfully,  
EVONNE VON HEUSSEN, Director,  
National Anti-Stalking and  
Harassment Campaign and  
Support Association,  
Bath Place Community Venture,  
Bath Place, Leamington Spa,  
Warwickshire.  
May 12.

From Dr David J. Girling

Sir, I should like to add a personal note to Dr Alan Webster's letter (May 11). Shortly after the end of the Falkland War I was in Buenos Aires and, as my practice as a member of the Church of England when visiting a predominantly Roman Catholic country, I attended Mass going into the vestry beforehand to ensure that the priest was happy to give me Communion. He spoke no English or French and I no Spanish. Nevertheless, with signs and minimal English from the altar boy, I made myself understood, asking that we pray for reconciliation between our two countries.

Contrary to Ms Maddox's claim, in

168 hours of broadcasting over the past week, *Galatea parisiense* and Grieg's Piano Concerto (first movement) were played once, and *Tales from the Vienna Woods* not at all.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID J. GIRLING,  
Head of Music, Classic FM,  
Academic House,  
24-28 Oval Road, NW1.

May 8.

From Dr J. R. Main, QC

Sir, Dr Margaret Nanson (letter, May 11) has my sympathy. I find that I am known to at least one database as "Judge J M QC".

Septimus had his own special grudge against Britain because its then military boss, Clodius Albinus, had challenged him unsuccessfully for Europe's top job. Septimius saw these islands as Jacques Sante might perhaps see the home of his own challenger for the presidency of the European Commission, Sir Leon Brittan. The subsequent division of Britain was the first occasion on which the great continents saw us as a genuine source of threat.

But still there was no real profit for the Roman state. Tax as they might, the cost of these islands was greater than the reward. So, once the political initiative collapsed, there was nothing to keep the invaders here. Like the last Britons of the Raj in years to come, they finally left for home, complaining about how standards at Rome had fallen while they were away.

Yours faithfully,  
J. A. TURNBULL  
(HM Coroner for the County of West  
Yorkshire (Western District)).  
City Courts, The Tykes,  
Bradford, West Yorkshire.  
May 14.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Beatification of Florentine 'heretic'

From Mr D. S. Olby

Sir, As Dominican prior of San Marco in Florence, Savonarola (report and leading article, May 6) was an undoubtedly authoritarian leader. But with the expulsion of the Medici in 1494 the government set up with the prior's hacking was the most widely reported.

Savonarola disapproved of conspicuous consumption, as the money could have benefited the poor. He also called for the burning of lascivious books and paintings (he believed that art should be Christian, not pagan) and said that it was "contemptuous to God" to portray the Virgin and saints using recognisable local, often immoral, people as models.

There is no suggestion, however, that he disapproved of the Fra Angelico paintings at San Marco – indeed, these were integrated into the communal ritual life of the Dominicans there – and one wonders what were the objects destroyed which you refer to as "some of the city's finest art treasures and ornaments".

Savonarola's *treasure*, *The Triumph of the Cross*, is a clear statement of orthodoxy. Catholic doctrine. He was excommunicated, but that was because he dared to speak out against the immoral lifestyle, the simony and nepotism of Alexander VI; he refused to obey the Pope and was disciplined for it.

You say that it would be "at best eccentric" to beatify Savonarola because he is believed to have been an "enemy of the arts". This is a partial view of his life and ideals. In any case, how many of those beatified have been friends of the arts? And when did this qualify someone to be thus honoured by the Church?

My views are largely based on the two-volume biography of Savonarola by Pasquale Villari, published in English in 1889 and dedicated, astonishingly, to Gladstone. Then shall you see a cinder, not a man, beneath the lightning of the Vatican! (flourish, alarms and excursions, flashes of Varian lightning, roll of drums, etc. There is then led in a large mill-white horse which the Pope mounts as the curtain falls).

Nothing could be less improbable than the beatification of the Dominican friar. The cause could only evoke the splendid coupler which ends Act 4 of Max Beerbohm's famous spoof, *Savonarola – A Tragedy*.

Then shall you see a cinder, not a man, beneath the lightning of the Vatican! (flourish, alarms and excursions, flashes of Varian lightning, roll of drums, etc. There is then led in a large mill-white horse which the Pope mounts as the curtain falls).

Yours sincerely,  
DONALD NICHOLSON,  
St Margaret's Convent,  
17 Spital, Aberdeen.  
May 10.

atification of Savonarola. However, my caution may be subjectively inspired.

When I was a young curate over 60 years ago my then vicar was white-bearded and therefore did not have to shave daily and did not need a looking-glass over his washbasin. What he had instead was the famous profile of Savonarola which doubtless, morning by morning, inspired his attitude towards the day. Whereupon he came down to breakfast prepared to burn any number of vanities, preferably mine.

It may be of course that something of his attitude rubbed off on to his little vicar because many years later in my London parish I seemed to have acquired in the minds of the irreverent an ominous sobriquet: the Savonarola of Sloane Square.

The most recently published *London Bird Report* recorded 228 species in 1994. This naturally includes some rare vagrants (that manna for twitchers) but also a great number of species who find congenial homes in London, either for the winter (the many waterfowl on lakes and reservoirs, for instance) or for breeding (including hobbies, a nationally scarce migratory falcon, and little ringed plovers, with London being probably the best place in the country to see them).

However, it should be pointed out that the London area is a good place for much other wildlife. A recent survey found 287 species of naturally occurring plants in Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. The tube-web spider was rediscovered on Hampstead Heath in 1994, after an absence of a century. The rare migratory and winter visitor, Nathusius's pipistrelle bat was recently found in the City. A formerly rare jewel beetle associated with old woodland has recently become widespread.

Yours sincerely,  
COLIN BOWLT,  
7 Croft Gardens,  
Ruislip, Middlesex.  
May 12.

Alpha course

From Mrs Helen Walker

Sir, I was saddened to see your report on the Church of England's Alpha course appear under a heading which included the words "evangelical pig-snorting" (May 11).

As an ordinary member of a congregation who did not always fully participate in the services, Alpha seemed a very straightforward and down to earth reflection on the life of Jesus Christ, as applied to modern life. Week by week on the course attendance became compulsive, and provided a renewal and strengthening of faith.

During the weekend course on the Holy Spirit a few fellow members

were visited by the Holy Spirit, but the clergy present went out of their way to ensure that no one in the room was left feeling disturbed or uncomfortable, and there were certainly no animal noises to be heard.

An Alpha course, in my view, is an excellent form of teaching for those with doubts or uncertainties, and a marvellous way of bridging the gap between the very dull type of Christianity that used to be ladled out at most public schools and other similar institutions and worship that is available for practising Christians today.

Yours sincerely,  
HELEN WALKER,  
7 Bloomfield Park,  
Bath, Avon.  
May 11.

award to Brian Kay as Music Broadcaster of the Year.

We are not restrained but encouraged by the accolade, since all the present adjustments to Radio 3, of which Brian Kay's *Sunday Morning* is a most successful example, have had the air, precisely recognised by the Sony judges Brenda Maddox quotes, of creating a "warm yet authoritative voice" which draws in listeners who might not otherwise listen to the channel.

Contrary to Ms Maddox's claim, in 168 hours of broadcasting over the past week, *Galatea parisiense* and Grieg's Piano Concerto (first movement) were played once, and *Tales from the Vienna Woods* not at all.



## OBITUARIES

Stanley Reed, Director of the British Film Institute, 1964-72, died on May 4 aged 85. He was born on January 21, 1911.

STANLEY REED did not behave as if he was somebody important, but he was. During the years in which he was Director of the British Film Institute it increased tenfold, becoming an important force in British cultural life. In what many people regard as its golden age, the institute became a focus for every kind of film activity.

The National Film Theatre was a window onto world cinema; the National Film Archive was developed into one of the most important of its kind, the London Film Festival unveiled talent from all over the world and the education department became central to both teachers and students of film.

Regional theatres were also developed to provide an alternative programme to mainstream cinema, while the institute's prolific publications became essential reading for anyone interested in cinema. In the area of production, the institute — first through the Experimental Film Fund, then through the Production Board — gave many of Britain's best film-makers their first break.

Reed did not achieve all this by himself. Although a man of independent spirit, he surrounded himself with people who were equally determined and passionate about cinema. In his time the institute did not resort to the bureaucratic arts of evasion or tend towards aggrandisement rather than development.

Stanley William Reed was born in London's East End. His family were craftsmen. His father was a printer and one of his uncles a cabinet-maker who — as the bookshelves and fittings in Reed's home testified — passed on his skills to his nephew.

As a boy, Reed was something of a rebel, but he won a scholarship to Stratford Grammar School which, unusually for the time, was both progressive and co-educational. It was there that he met his wife, Alicia, one of his classmates, whom he got to know after he had knocked her over on the stairs.



Reed discovered an interest in photography at an early age, and the first of his many cameras was a home-made pinhole. He was also an avid reader who, by his own (perhaps apocryphal) account, would select a book from the local public library, finish it on the way home, and then turn immediately around to take it back and exchange it for another.

He went on to study at the College of St Mark and St John, Chelsea, where he took an external degree and gained a teaching certificate. But perhaps more indicative of what was to come was the fact that he founded the Students' Union, and formed a dramatic society, a choir, an orchestra and a tea club — all in the face of fierce opposition from the college principal.

He started his career as a teacher in West Ham, where he introduced film appreciation into his English class. During the war, he and his wife accompanied groups of evacuees and taught in village schools around the country. Their first daughter, Jane, was born during an air raid over Wellington over Northamptonshire.

In 1951 Reed joined the BFI as its first education officer. He travelled throughout Britain, lecturing, teaching and promoting film education, as well as completing books and other publications, plus television schools broadcasts on film analysis. In 1956 he was appointed secretary.

Film bureaucrats tend to like their film-makers to be either foreign or

dead — preferably both. Then they could be generous and enthusiastic. For Reed however, film-makers were kindred spirits and he strongly supported production. His judgment was impeccable. The list of grantees of the experimental film fund includes hardly a name that is not known in the business or beyond: Tony Richardson, Karel Reisz, Lindsay Anderson, Claude Goretta, Alain Tanner, Kevin Brownlow, Peter Watkins, John Irvin. He appointed Bruce Beresford as the first head of production, then Mamoun Hassam, whom he supported when the latter introduced a policy of financing low-budget feature films.

The reasons behind Reed's retirement in 1972 are not well known. Certainly, he would not refer to them afterwards, not even privately. Many people, in fact, were to consider the whole event a disgraceful episode. In 1971 there was an attempt to have him removed by the combined efforts of members of an action committee, of John Davis of Rank who was a governor, and of two film-makers who were also governors.

Reed, it seemed, had set himself on a collision course with the aims of the education department. One member of its staff was heard to say that he would prefer people not to see a film than not to understand why they liked it. Reed would have disagreed with this intimidating view. John Davis, on a different task, was no supporter of the expansion of regional theatres, while the film-maker governors wanted a change of personnel at the BFI's film magazine *Sight and Sound*, edited by Penelope Houston. They felt the magazine did not support British film-makers enough. Reed would not budge on any of these issues. But he had two heart attacks during the summer of 1971 and soon after that he announced his retirement.

As a boy, Reed had had a profound interest in his neighbourhood. He was curious about the way it worked and explored everything from the sewers to the cemetery. In his later years he was rarely without a camera, continuing to explore the London he loved.

Stanley Reed is survived by his wife Alicia and by their three daughters.

## SIR GAETAN DUVAL, QC

Sir Gaetan Duval, QC, Mauritian politician and lawyer, died on May 5 aged 65. He was born on October 8, 1930.

OF THE internationally known figures to have emerged in African politics over the last four decades, one of the most colourful was Sir Gaetan Duval. During his controversial political career in Mauritius he served as Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Minister of Tourism.

Although the island of Mauritius is in the Indian Ocean, and two thirds of its population are of Asian origin, politically it has always been regarded as part of the African continent. Duval served as a parliamentarian in and out of Mauritius politics from 1968, when the island — previously a Dutch, French and English colony — became an independent state within the Commonwealth. It became a republic in 1992.

Throughout Duval maintained a personal following among the electorate, despite the vicissitudes of his career.

At the general election in December 1995 he became the sole member of the Opposition,



receiving the highest number of votes among the unelected candidates. From the earlier days of independence it had been assumed, on grounds of ability and charisma, that he would succeed Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, first Prime Minister of Mauritius and father of the nation as well as father of the present Prime Minister. But so wayward was Duval in his political allegiances — it was impossible at any time to pinpoint him on the Left-Right spectrum of political life — that he spent most of his years in Opposition, occasionally venturing into a coalition Government.

A Creole by parentage, Duval uniquely attracted widespread support, not just from the Creole community but from large sections of the Hindu and Muslim populations, as well as from the Chinese and French settler minorities. His lasting contribution was to wean Mauritius

out of its one-crop economy of sugar. An irrepressible bon vivant, his flamboyance, coupled with his interest in international figures, including British royalty, suited him perfectly for the post of Minister of Tourism. Today tourism is the island's main source of revenue.

Duval's notoriety reached

its peak in July 1989 when he

was arrested for a murder

committed 18 years previously.

In the centre of Curepipe,

the second town of Mauritius,

in the middle of the island, a

member of the left-wing party,

Mouvement Militant Mauricien, was shot dead while

sitting in a car, by someone

driving up alongside. The shot

was intended for the MMM's

party leader, Paul Berenger,

who happened to be absent

that day from Curepipe. (He is

currently Minister for Foreign

Affairs in a coalition

Government.)

Duval was knighted in 1981.

He received several honours from the French Government.

Gaetan Duval was married

and divorced from an English

woman by whom he had a son, Xavier Luc Duval, who survives him. Until last December his son served as a minister in the Jugernaut Government.

## MAJOR-GENERAL DOUGLAS MILNE

Major-General Douglas Milne, Deputy Director-General of Army Medical Services, 1975-78, died on May 6 aged 76. He was born on May 19, 1919.



DOUGLAS MILNE made his name in the Army as a consultant in preventative medicine, called, in the old days, Army Hygiene, and later, Army Health. This came about because at the end of the war one of his early posts had been to the unhealthy climate of the Gold Coast. Milne pursued this specialisation throughout his military career, becoming Professor and Director of Army Health and Research in the Ministry of Defence before going on to be Deputy Director-General of Army Medical Services in 1975.

Douglas Graeme Milne — known by his friends as Dougie — was a modest, unassuming and enormously conscientious Scot. Yet, with a twinkle in his eye, he was always ready to puncture any pomposity. An Aberdonian, he was one of five sons of George Milne, four of whom became doctors. He was educated at Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, and read medicine at Aberdeen University, where he excelled academically and won a hockey Blue. A quick and agile man, he went on to represent the Army at hockey.

Milne remained politically active until the end of his life, and even if his achievements could never have matched up to the loftiness of his hopes, he refused to relent in the pursuit of his ideals. He died after collapsing at an anarcho-syndicalist conference in Weston-super-Mare.

Milne never married.

Infantry for nine months, he was posted to West Africa on the first of his many overseas tours. When the Second World War ended, he took a short service commission and was sent to Malta and Egypt.

By 1951, when his short service commission was due to expire, he had doubts about staying in the Army, even though he had enjoyed the life.

He decided to try a civilian medical career and qualified for his DPH (Diploma in Public Health). Not surprisingly for a young man who had already seen something of the world, he found two years in a local public health department more than enough.

The shortage of army doctors in the mid-1950s, caused by the increased military activity during the early phases of the withdrawal from Empire, led to his being welcomed back into the RAMC with the grant of a regular commission as a major.

From 1956 onwards, Milne's career was a balanced mix of home and overseas postings: BAOR and Malta, 1956-60, as a major; and the War Office, HQ 1st (British) Corps and HQ Far East Land Forces as a colonel of the Army Health Directorate, 1961-71. He became a consultant in Army Health in 1964.

He joined the staff of the Royal Army Medical College at Millbank in 1971 as Professor of Army Health; and was elected FFCM (Fellow of the Faculty of Community Medicine) in 1972. Promoted brigadier in 1973, he was appointed Director of Army Health and Research in the Ministry of Defence, and three years later, promoted major-general, he took over as Deputy Director-General of Army Medical Services. In this post he served no fewer than three director-generals until his retirement in 1978. He enjoyed the additional distinction of being Honorary Surgeon to the Queen for the last four years of his service.

After he retired, Milne was Colonel Commandant of the RAMC, 1979-84. He rejoined the Ministry of Defence as a civilian medical officer in the medico-legal branch, dealing with the increasing load of medical litigation. His dry sense of humour, honesty of purpose and ability to take immense care in handling other people's troubles, made for success in this thankless task.

He married Jean Millicent Gove, a WRNS officer, in 1944; they had one daughter. Both survived him.

## ALBERT MELTZER

Albert Meltzer, anarchist, died on May 7 aged 76. He was born on January 7, 1920.

CONVINCED that all privilege was the enemy of freedom, Albert Meltzer devoted his life to class struggle and libertarian revolution. For 60 years he was a standard-bearer for the international anarchist movement, rebelling not only against the principles of monarchy and capitalism, politicians and bureaucrats, but also against the petty, opportunistic aspirations which sprung up amid revolutionaries themselves.

His 60-year commitment to anarchism remained solid through all the vagaries and battles of the movement's history. He fought Oswald Mosley's blackshirts in Cable Street in 1936, he supported the anarchist communities during the Spanish Revolution and championed anti-Nazi resistance efforts in pre-war Germany. During the 1960s' revival of anarchism he fought off a neo-liberal moderation of its ideals holding through his strict *secularism* to a hardline ideal, which was later to convince countless young people to become active



where his chief ambitions were always to remain.

At Laymer Meltzer had learned to box, though the sport was seen as "common" by the school governors and especially by the prospective Labour MP. At the age of just 15, attending his first anarchist meeting, he found himself sparring in an intellectual arena when he defended his sport against the doyenne of the far Left. At this time a neo-liberal trend of thought was beginning to dominate the anarchist movement. Meltzer, adhering to his militant line, was passionately convinced that anarchism should not be

repackaged and marketed as a broader movement colonised by growing numbers of academic and pacifist spawn of the disillusionments of war.

It was this, coupled with his later scepticism about the student-led New Left of the 1960s, which earned Meltzer a reputation for sectarianism. However, it was this very tendency which was to convince many anarchists of subsequent generations to become active, and Meltzer's hardline convictions were to be responsible for bringing several recruits into the movement over the past 30 years.

In 1967 Meltzer started a satirical magazine called *Cudlton's Cosmopolitan Review*. Two years later, in collaboration with Stuart Christie who had been imprisoned in Spain for his attempted assassination of Franco, he founded the Anarchist Black Cross. Their magazine was first published in 1968 under the name of *Bulletin*, but two years later it became *Black Flag*. It is still printed today.

Together with Stuart Christie, Meltzer also wrote *The Floodgates of Anarchy*, which was published in 1970. He then went on to write *The Anarchists in London, 1935-1955*, published in 1975, a survey of the early part of his own political career, which he followed up with his autobiography *I Couldn't Paint Blue Angels* (1995). Meltzer also founded the Kate Sharpley Library, an archive of anarchist material currently based in Peterborough and probably the most comprehensive archive of its kind in Britain.

Meltzer remained politically active until the end of his life, and even if his achievements could never have matched up to the loftiness of his hopes, he refused to relent in the pursuit of his ideals. He died after collapsing at an anarcho-syndicalist conference in Weston-super-Mare.

Meltzer never married.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

## GIFTS

THE BRITISH NEWSPAPER OWNERS ASSOCIATION has presented its annual trophy to the Observer for the 12th consecutive year.

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# THE TIMES GOOD

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Why do the traditional universities still have such an advantage over their newer academic rivals?

## BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

**HONOURS** are shared among three very strong departments for the accolade of best business and management providers catering for both undergraduate and research students.

The London School of Economics, University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, and Warwick University are among five institutions with a grade five for research and an excellent rating for teaching.

Some of the well-known business schools are omitted from the list because they do not run undergraduate courses. For example, the London Business School has been awarded the highest

grades for its teaching and research. New universities rated excellent for business studies include Glamorgan, De Montfort, Kingston and Northumbria.

1	LSE
2	UMIST
3	Warwick
4	Leicester
5	Strathclyde
6	City
7	Nottingham
8	Loughborough
9	East
10	Manchester
11	De Montfort
12	Brunel
13	Cardiff
14	Edinburgh
15	St Andrews
16	Sunderland
17	Sheriff
18	Surrey
19	Hull
20	Keele

## HISTORY

TABLE-topping Cambridge came first among four universities recording the highest grades in both teaching and research in history, the others being Birmingham, King's College London and the London School of Economics.

Teaching excellence was named at 18 institutions by the English funding council, including Canterbury Christ Church College. The Welsh funding council judged history excellent at Swansea.

The English funding council concluded that its survey of 89 departments showed: "History students can confidently expect to receive at least a sound education and often a very fine one." It added: "There are good employment rates for history graduates."

However, some modular courses were criticised for

fragmenting learning. Teaching assessments have so far only been made for history departments in England and Wales.

1	Cambridge
2	LSE
3	Cardiff
4	Birmingham
5	King's, London
6	York
7	Sheffield
8	Swansea
9	UCL
10	Leicester
11	Liverpool
12	Royal Holloway
13	Warwick
14	Durham
15	Sussex
16	Hull
17	Queen's, Belfast
18	Leeds
19	Bristol
20	East Anglia
21	Newcastle

## GEOGRAPHY

THE ratings for geography are peppered with top-rated departments. Five universities — Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Oxford and University College London — all managed the maximum for both teaching and research.

A total of 25 others were considered excellent at teaching, including three colleges of higher education: Cheltenham and Gloucester, Canterbury Christ Church and the Liverpool Institute. Sunderland University was rated unsatisfactory, but is likely to be upgraded when a second report is published.

The success of a one-third expansion at third-place Leeds was particularly praised by

assessors, a success reflected by an increase in the entry grades required. Its rating of excellent reflected a large proportion of distinguished researchers on the staff.

1	Cambridge
2	Oxford
3	Durham
4	Bristol
5	UCL
6	Edinburgh
7	Exeter
8	East Anglia
9	Leeds
10	Sheffield
11	Southampton
12	Birmingham
13	Nottingham
14	Reading
15	Leicester
16	King's
17	Swansea
18	St Andrews
19	LSE
20	Queen Mary & Westfield

## MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

THE link between excellence in teaching and research is much less marked in mechanical engineering than in most subjects. Only Sheffield University achieved the maximum score in both areas, while four other top-rated research departments were considered merely satisfactory for teaching.

Sheffield was particularly praised for its links with industry, including a visiting professors scheme in engineering design, as well as its emphasis on developing communication and other personal skills. The intake of students has been expanding by 10 per cent a year without any reduction in entry standards.

Two new universities, Coventry and Manchester Metropolitan, made the breakthrough to the top grade for

teaching, but low research grades robbed them of a place in our table.

Assessors found the strain on resources caused by the rapid increase in student numbers and the squeeze on university budgets was beginning to show in a large minority of departments. They added that too many students were dropping out in three out of five institutions providing mechanical engineering courses. The assessors also said the number of female students was low in mechanical engineering, ranging from none on some courses to 12 per cent at most. Schemes to attract more have met with little success.

They also said: "Total student numbers have increased during a period of declining applications resulting in broader entry standards and a

wider ability range."

Students who graduate are being rewarded with high levels of employment.

1	Sheffield
2	Bath
3	Imperial
4	ristol
5	Cardiff
6	Nottingham
7	LSE
8	Hull
9	Liverpool
10	Southampton
11	Manchester
12	Strathclyde
13	UCL
14	Leeds
15	Newcastle
16	Loughborough
17	Birmingham
18	Glasgow
19	Aston
20	Queen Mary & Westfield
21	Sheffield
22	Southampton

**MUSIC** is a new subject in our rankings. The assessment of teaching was not complete for last year's guide.

The reports suggest that undergraduates are well served in British universities: there is an unusually high proportion of top ratings for teaching, even though top research grades are thin on the ground.

Although not one of the largest subjects, music is available at a wide range of institutions. The Royal College, Royal Academy, the Royal Northern College and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama were all rated as excellent for teaching.

In Northern Ireland both

Queen's, Belfast and Ulster University managed the top rating.

Only Worcester College of Higher Education has been declared unsatisfactory.

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# UNIVERSITY GUIDE

Plus where to find the best departments nationwide: our tables list the top universities in 14 subjects

## GEOLOGY

**20** FIVE universities with top research grades in geology added an excellent rating in teaching when the assessment of teaching quality was completed this year.

Cambridge and Oxford came out on top of *The Times* table because of their more stringent entry requirements. The others with maximum marks were Leeds, Liverpool and Newcastle.

Cambridge, which has one of the largest geography departments in Britain with more than 160 students, was praised in its teaching assessment for its high level of integration between lectures, practical work and tutorials.

Courses are assessed at the end of each year and field courses, while not compulsory, were taken by almost all students. The students were

said to be "forthcoming and articulate", attributes fostered by an emphasis on oral presentations and seminar participation.

Half of Cambridge's geology students progress to higher degree courses.

Leeds, which has an even bigger department, was particularly praised for its rapid development of new teaching and assessment methods. Its modern and applied flavour was enhanced by strong collaboration with industry.

Graduates were said to be held in high esteem by employers.

A total of 18 geology departments were awarded excellent ratings for their teaching by the English funding council, and seven were said to have outstanding research, with some of international quality, at the time of the last assessment.

In Scotland, the subject is taught at just four universities.

## COMPUTING

**ANTHROPOLOGY**

ANTHROPOLOGY is one of the smallest subjects to have been assessed, but it has among the highest success rates. Six of the 14 departments in England have top ratings for both teaching and research. They are Cambridge, the London School of Economics, the School of Oriental and African Studies, University College London, Manchester and Oxford.

Only three of the remaining departments have been rated as less than excellent for teaching. Queen's University, Belfast, Thames Valley and Goldsmiths' College have all been assessed as satisfactory.

The subject is yet to be assessed in Scotland. In Wales, Cardiff and Swansea both received satisfactory ratings for sociology and anthropology degrees.

1	Cambridge
2	Oxford
3	LSB
4	Manchester
5	SOAS
6	Sheffield
7	UCL
8	Durham
9	Bristol
10	Imperial
11	Edinburgh
12	Queen's, Belfast
13	Southampton
14	Durham
15	Leicester
16	Glasgow
17	Sheffield
18	Keele
19	Aberdeen

## ANTHROPOLOGY

COMPUTER studies was one of the largest fields assessed in the first round of ratings for teaching quality. Yet only eight out of more than 100 departments achieved the maximum score for both teaching and research. They were Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Oxford, Warwick, York and Imperial College London.

The addition of entry grades to the formula used to rank universities here took the two ancient universities to the top of the pile. Taking account of the proportion of staff entered for the last research assessment also separated some departments from the rest.

Two departments received an unsatisfactory rating from their initial inspection. But Thames Valley University has already been promoted to "satisfactory" after a return visit by assessors, and Derby University is likely to follow suit when its second report is published.

However, the funding council's unusually trenchant report on computer studies teaching said there was "no room for complacency". Although ten departments only just missed an excellent rating, as many were "only just satisfactory".

## CHEMISTRY

OXFORD and Cambridge remain top of the league in chemistry, with Nottingham replacing Southampton in third place in this year's rankings.

The top ten reflects the dominance in the discipline of the traditional universities, with little change on last year. Leicester moves up to 10th and Glasgow to 14th, both from 18th equal.

However, the Oxbridge departments were not the only ones to record maximum scores for both teaching and research in a competitive field. The feat was repeated by Durham, Nottingham and Southampton.

Excellent teaching was also recognised by assessors from the English funding council at Bristol, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Imperial, Manchester, Nottingham, Southampton, and

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# Prime-time push for the presidency

Okay, I'm working on it," said the cash machine from which I requested dollars in New York last week. But it will take more than a computer to help American television networks to solve the problem they are working on — one solved long ago, if imperfectly, in Britain. How to give presidential candidates free airtime to put their own case?

Obviously nothing as tedious as the British party political broadcast will be allowed on American television, where four commercial networks compete furiously for audiences. But something has to be done. Otherwise, only millionaires will be able to run for President, and the American public will know nothing more of candidates' views except what can be squeezed into a tiny soundbite or morded in slick, insulting advertisements by their opponents.

The major American networks have good reason to try harder to beef up their serious presentation of the issues. They fear being blamed for the apathy, bordering on cynicism, of much of the American public towards the electoral process. They know, too, that they are already under fire from Congress, which has put them under orders to rate their programmes for sex and violence and to try harder to serve family values and education. And as commercial enterprises they want something very much from Washington in return: free use of the new digital television channels which, as in Britain, are seen as just around the corner. Washington might prefer to auction these channels off to the highest bidders.

But giving away valuable is never easy. The idea of free television time for presidential candidates originated in February, according to *The New York Times*, with a speech to the National Press Club by Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, and of Fox, the fourth and newest of the major American networks. His offer still stands — an hour in prime-time on the Fox network on the election eve, to be shared by the main candidates, to allow them to present their own views uninterrupted by interviewers. During the month preceding the election, Fox would also air one-minute position statements from each candidate, in prime-time commercial breaks.

The proposal gained credence (according to *The New York Times*) when the venerable American broadcaster, Walter Cronkite, endorsed it. For a time the three biggest American networks held out. But by the end of last week all had submitted free-time plans of their own. CBS and NBC are offering various packages of times for

statements and interviews, tailored to their own programme formats and schedules. ABC proposes giving candidates an hour's live debate in the final week of the campaign. Not to be outdone, some of the smaller networks, such as CNN and the Public Broadcasting Service, have made offers of their own. Even Court TV says it will give each candidate three 15-minute slots to address crime and judicial issues.

The resulting hotchpotch hardly looks like progress. Every network is offering something different and seemingly incompatible with the rest. To take advantage of them all, a candidate would have to be on the screen practically all the time: not necessarily a good way to win votes. So who will appear, when and for how long? A crusading group called The Free TV Coalition, founded by a former *Washington Post* journalist, is pressing for the networks to co-ordinate their electoral philanthropy. But getting synchronous political broadcasts across all networks seems a pretty vain hope. It will be an achievement merely to get agreement on who qualifies for free airtime. My bet is that American equivalents of the Monster Raving Loony Party will not get much of a look-in.

The worst scenario would not involve all the candidates accepting all the invitations. Nor would it be none of them accepting any. It would be the bolstering of a consensus that the interrogative journalist is an irrelevance that political leaders are best left to explain themselves in their own terms. The sad thing is that no one expects this largesse of free airtime in any way to halt or even reduce the number or sting of the so-called "attack ads". These, not allowed in Britain, are a source of considerable revenue for the stations that carry them.

But predictions are not impossible. For one thing, it seems pretty clear that American television, with its national reach and homogenised tone, cannot deliver informed debate on what promises to be the most divisive issue of the coming campaign: abortion. The depth of the division of feeling in America has to be seen to be believed. Some opponents of abortion will kill to defend the right to life, while abortion clinics publicly and frankly advertise their services. One poster on the New York subway offers abortion up to the 24th week of pregnancy, with consumer choice of "asleep or awake".

Another certainty about electoral coverage has bipartisan agreement. It is that television will favour the incumbent over the challenger. Bill Clinton, with his youth, high colour and country and western accent, is universally acknowledged to be made for television, while Bob Dole, sad to say, has yet to find the medium that fancies him.



BRENDA  
MADDUX

## Freshly squeezed OJ

O.J. SIMPSON's appearance on the Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan show was always likely to cause a rumour, but one would hardly have expected Max Clifford to complain. Given the job of publicising O.J.'s British tour, he has already objected that our flabby presenters are too quick for his former running back.

The interview was rush, rush, rush," Clifford complains. "O.J. was answering a question from one of them and the other would interrupt with another. He was not given a chance to answer properly. They asked too many questions." The publicist claims that he has since been inundated with offers from other interviewers, but not from his first choice. "Michael Parkinson, for example, would leave you feeling you had learnt something new about the man." Presumably why the O.J. camp is none too keen.

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### Oxygen of publicity

A PAIR of pushy Oxford graduates have attracted a glittering array of the university's media alumni to support their plans for Britain's first fully-licensed student radio station, Oxygen FM. They include Newsnight's Peter Snow, Magdalen College President Tony Smith, a former BBC producer;

## THE LISTENER



A bit of a rush: Simpson found Judy and Richard too quick for him

Andrew Knight, a News Corporation non-executive director, James Arnold-Baker, chief executive of Oxford University Press and Duncan Grey, series editor of *The Word*.

Philip Weiss, one of the PPE graduates behind the proposed station, clearly has the right idea about the way the world turns. "We realised that it would only be possible to raise financial backing if we used all the Oxford connections we could get," he says. Media moguls across the country are screening their incoming phone calls with care.

• Richard Littlejohn, of the Daily Mail, former Irritant of the Year, has been shortlisted as Bigot of the Year by the charity Mind for attacking £20,000 compensation awarded to a schizophrenic killer. Favourite for the title is Lenny Lottery of *The Sun* for a story about mad Somalians.

### Yawning gap

THE appointment of a new media aide to the Prince of Wales later this week will leave a gaping hole at the top of the Press Complaints Commission. So

## Twenty years in the country

### EL PAIS

EL PAIS  
EL PAIS INDEPENDIENTE DE LA NACION

EDITORIAL  
MAY 15, 1996

Twenty years in the country

# Is this Britain's ideal lifestyle?

As editor-in-chief of a home style magazine, Sally O'Sullivan influences thousands. She talks to Giles Coren

BRITAIN'S ideal home is just outside York. It is detached, has three to four bedrooms, a large garden, and something entirely new on the coffee table. *Ideal Home* magazine has been revamped, and in the new edition, launched this week with a £1 million marketing campaign, these details, and many more, of the nation's dream domicile are revealed in a reader survey.

The London residence of the new Editor-in-Chief, Sally O'Sullivan, however, is not like that at all. It is vast and maze-like, with a huge smoker room, dining and living rooms crammed with antiques and collections of oddities, walls groaning with pictures, and views over Holland Park square in west London.

Here she lives with her husband Charles Wilson, managing director of the Mirror group and former Editor of *The Times*, and their children Luke, 14, and Lily, 10. She had edited *Options*, *Riva*, *She and Harper's & Queen* before leaving *Good Housekeeping* in December last year (having added 100,000 to the circulation) to take the helm of *Ideal Home*, a 75-year-old IPC title, which looks to her to lead it through the battlefield of an ever more competitive market.

"Look how dirty the windows are," she moans, as the sun streams in, and illuminates not only the smears but dust in the air and in patches of overlooked furniture. That is why this is a good time for *Ideal Home*. It is only when the sun comes into the house for the first time that you really see it, and think 'God, I must do something'. That is why it is cheaper to spend all day in an office, and only see your home at night.

"I once took a month off work, and it was the most expensive time of my life."

This certainly ties in with the magazine survey's revelation that 96 per cent of decisions on home decoration are made by women. "Charlie's priorities are the books, and his First World War stuff, but I choose all the colour schemes and fabrics."

And does Ms Sullivan, like 60 per cent of the women questioned, do most of the DIY? "We're not into DIY in this house," she says. "We're into PTN. That's Pay Through the Nose. Although Charlie is very good with Hoover belts and defusing kettles." While the Sullivan-Wilson house may differ in the specifics from the *Ideal Home* norm (how many have a loft portrait of themselves in a smoker room alcove?) she believes there is a revolution afoot that involves everyone.

"We have the same fascination with our home as the rest of the nation does. But the nature of that fascination has changed. Where people used



Style supremo Sally O'Sullivan lives among a dusty but splendid clutter of antiques and portraits. There comes a time, she says, when you can no longer change your spouse or your looks — just the house

to see their home as primarily the place where they live, now it is all about the way you live."

"At the end of the century, people are spending more time making decisions about where and what they are. They want their home to say, 'this is where we're at. This is us. This is our handle on life.' And magazines must reflect that. *Ideal Home* has kept all the information and consumer advice that was always there, but added 25 per cent more editorial, particularly in fashion, beauty and food."

"Home interest has become a huge area. From only five or six titles ten years ago, there are now 17 — too many players chasing too little money. So

*Ideal Home* must shift into a more general market."

Since her first editing job, in 1982, the women's magazine market has undergone radical change. "There was a time when you would have thought from advertising that all women did was shop, toter round the kitchen and clean lavatories, and wait for an authoritative male voice to tell them what to buy. Now she makes her own decisions. The consumer is queen, and understanding her is a fundamental part of the future."

While she claims that circumstances may not allow her to repeat quite the same success that she had at *Good Housekeeping*, she has rea-

sons for optimism. "Interest in homes is due for a resurgence," she says. "There comes a time in your life when you know you are not going to change your partner, or your job. The only thing left is to change your home. The core *Ideal Home* reader is 40. At that age you can't change the way you look, but a conservatory here, a herbaceous border there..."

**S**o from a position of such power over the consumer can she confess to any hideous miscalculations of her own?

"Oh, I have thrown a lot of

"the mistakes away. I still have

some chocolate-coloured bed

linen, and a collection of snow

storms which is now in the

loo." But the most recent

disaster was earlier this year.

"We kept featuring paint

finishes, like rag-rolling, in the

magazine, and I got very keen

on the idea so we had a man

come in and do it in the dining

room. But when I saw it I just

said 'Yuk!' and had it painted

over again. That is the problem with working in magazines: if you do it on the pages you think you can do it at home. When I was on *Good*

*Housekeeping* there never

seemed to be any food in the

house. And then when Christmas comes around you would do nothing about it because you think, 'we did Christmas in August'."

"So when you are running a

home magazine, and go back

each night to a place that looks

like a gypsy encampment, you

are always surprised to find

that it doesn't look like the

lovely house you have just put

in the magazine."

When the column eventually arrived, its content was explosive. Alice Thomas Ellis had written a fierce philippic on the reputation of an archbishop who had been one of the most prominent liberal churchmen in Britain, the late Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Derek Worlock. She accused him of diluting the Catholic faith and blamed him for declining church attendances in Liverpool. Mr Coen, a veteran of *The Sunday Times* and *The Sunday Telegraph*, a cradle Catholic who was doing the job as a favour but was unversed in Catholic politics, knew he had a hot property.

His understanding was that Ms Thomas Ellis was leaving the paper. Why not let her go out with all guns blazing? He gave the piece a Fleet Street headline — "My War against Worlock" — and set the presses rolling.

**W**e can only guess what might have happened if Cristiana Odone, the Editor on a sabbatical, had been in the chair. Understanding the sensitivities of the Roman Catholic Church and the subtle and unsual influences put in play on editors who encourage dissent, she would probably have salvaged the article by turning it into a more generalised polemic and cut the personal attack on Worlock.

Once the *Catholic Herald* was published, there was an outcry. Mr Coen quickly found that the politics of Fleet Street are gentler compared with the Machiavellian politics of the Catholic Church. The *Herald* is sold at the back of churches and the clergy can influence sales



Snowbound: the loo hides a small and surprising secret

**Robin Wight on why carmakers may be slashing their TV spending**

DO you know how many television car advertisements you have seen in the past 12 months? If you are typical (and clearly a *Times* reader is far from typical) you would have seen 702 spots. That is at least six hours of car advertisements a year, taken at a single sitting.

Or to approach it from the car manufacturers themselves, the Renault Clio, the fifth biggest advertiser, actually spent more on advertising last year than mighty British Airways. But did you really "see" all this advertising?

Research confirms what common sense predicts: there is a vast difference between the actual visibility of these media explosions.

Last year, for example, a French study on car advertisers showed that the same advertising budgets produced visibility scores ranging from 65 per cent to 15 per cent; a difference of four times the impact on the same budget. Hence the attention-grabbing motoring epics that can cost, if rumour of the forthcoming Volvo commercial is to be believed, as much to produce per second as 30 minutes of normal television output.

Vauxhall's Vectra, too, had the special effects computers working (and charging) overtime. And more recently, the Peugeot 406 launch, following the precedent of the burning sugar cane fields of a previous Peugeot launch, seemed more like a nicely shot pop video than a car commercial. For all these stylish investments I cannot, to coin a phrase, believe it's not clutter.

It is one reason why BMW chose to launch its Z3 convertible by placing it on view in the James Bond *GoldenEye* film. Probably the most effective car launch in 1995, it had nothing to do with an advertising agency (and I write as BMW's advertising agent for 17 years).

The fact is, the car launch is looking

## Big budget TV ads fail to deliver

rather like the overblown privatisation bonanzas of the 1980s when Sir John Bogle spent five times the level of its 1987's

Does car advertising have to be so expensive? BMW's recent 5 Series launch actually spent less than the launch of the Fiat Brava. Compare that with the 26 Opportunities To See [OTS] the Vectra commercial for 96 per cent of the population. A luckless 10 per cent of the population will have seen the advertisement 47 times, making the trench warfare of the First World War seem like a surgical strike.

And where can you put all this television advertising? Car advertisers, not unreasonably, refuse to share breaks with rival brands. There are only eight quality breaks of prime time every night and there are 48 car brands trying to fill them. Little wonder that TV advertising rates are forced by this demand to rise four times faster than the RPI.

Once upon a time, car companies draped young ladies over the bonnets of new models to gain attention, until it was deemed grotesque. Is the advertising warfare not in danger of becoming grotesque, too? Lord Rutherford, who split the atom on a shoestring at Cambridge, had as his battle cry "We haven't any money, so we've got to think". In car advertising, too much

money seems to be deployed with too little thought, for all the polished artistry of the executions.

My favourite advert of 1995 was a Volkswagen commercial that boasted that the production costs of the commercial were less than the servicing costs of the Volkswagen. However modest the production budget, the idea was big.

There is a lesson for all of us here. Calling in talented directors, such as Tony Kaye or Gerard de Thame, to fluff up a flat idea is not the answer. As Volkswagen illustrated, it is the size of the idea and not the size of the production or media budget that makes an advert stand out.

How long can Volvo manage to spend £500 on advertising each car, and Audi £400, when BMW is able to get by on a modest £15?

I expect a culling of media and production budgets before too long.

In the search for bold ideas, my friends at EURO RSCG have come up with an interesting technique. It is called "window shopping". Shortly before they pitched against Butterfield Day Devito Hockney for the BT business account, some of their people were allegedly spotted looking into the ground floor studio of BDDH, perhaps trying to see what bright ideas the rival agency were brewing up. I am sure it was a case of mistaken identity, as EURO RSCG are known for their old-fashioned sense of fair play. In any event, nothing was gained by the process as BDDH held on to this flagship account. However, agencies with ground floor studios, such as M&C Saatchi, AMV and indeed my own, WCRS, may be suffering from this syndrome. I have certainly ordered a blinds-down bond. Window shoppers should stick to Bond Street.

• Robin Wight is chairman of WCRS

## The archbishop, the beautiful editor and an unholy row

**O**n the afternoon of April 30, Harry Coen, the acting Editor of the *Catholic Herald*, was suffering an editor's worst nightmare. The paper was due to go to press in three hours, his star writer hadn't filed her column and he was looking at a blank space on his main features page.

When the column eventually arrived, its content was explosive. Alice Thomas Ellis had written a fierce philippic on the reputation of an archbishop who had been one of the most prominent liberal churchmen in Britain, the late Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Derek Worlock. She accused him of diluting the Catholic faith and blamed him for declining church attendances in Liverpool.

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Odone: "Don't keep out of mischief. Never apologise"

— and that she would not have apologised even if she hadn't. The paper should have stood by its columnist and not lost its nerve.

Mr Coen remains bewildered by the scale of the row and now believes that enforced subservience to the Catholic hierarchy is a constraint on press freedom. As for Ms Odone, her advice to her successor is defiant:

"Stick to your guns. Remember you're not just an organ of the Church but a small Fleet Street paper. Don't keep out of mischief, never apologise."

As *The Sun* discovered after the Hillsborough disaster, editors upset Liverpool whether its football fans or its Catholic faithful, at their peril. That peril, however, pinpoints the crucial point raised by the journalism of Ms Thomas Ellis. Another of the traditionalist Catholics that Ms Odone encouraged was the author Piers Paul Read. He sees Ms Thomas Ellis as a witty, acerbic writer who had a legitimate viewpoint. "If writers think they are going to upset bishops, particularly when some are so thin-skinned," he says, "Catholic journalism becomes impossible."

(who always sells papers) — and a perception among non-Catholics of an authoritarian Church.

Yet it has been on the high-profile Odone, who submitted her resignation before the article appeared, that most attention has focused. According to Paul Johnson, one of the fundamentalist Catholics she invited into the paper, she is "brilliant and beautiful". *The Guardian* describes the "Frostrupish huskiness" of her voice.

He has widened the editorial appeal of the *Catholic Herald* but also attracted attention with the sort of forthright comments that many don't expect from Catholic women — "I'd love to have sex 9,000 times a day with 6,000 people". Ms Odone might well have edited Ms Thomas Ellis's article but she says that she would not have apologised even if she hadn't. The paper should have stood by its columnist and not lost its nerve.

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## ARTS 36-38

The South Bank adds up its bid for lottery cash



## HOMES 45

Timeshare sellers are trying to beat tough EU laws



## SPORT 46-52

Football's unsung heroes honoured by Sir Bobby



## THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MAY 15 1996

## Public is likely to get more shares in Railtrack

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

STRONG demand for Railtrack shares from private investors is likely to result in an increased allocation of stock, with more than 30 per cent of the issue going to members of the public.

The offer for the sale of Britain's track and signalling network closes at noon today in the UK with early indications showing substantial interest from potential investors. Among professional institutional investors the offer is thought to be four times subscribed.

A 30 per cent slice of the shares had been intended for private investors but it is believed that will be increased because registrations at share shops have been higher than expected. International investors will have until the end of the week to apply.

The shares will be priced on Monday when trading will begin. A price of around 390p or above is anticipated — valuing the company at about £1.95 billion — compared with initial thoughts of 350p-390p.

The greater than expected interest among small shareholders has been attributed to the package of sweeteners offered by the Government and the growing belief that risk factors have been overplayed.

Nigel Hawkins, analyst at Yamaichi, said: "Railtrack offers a good, solid investment, with the prospect of dividend growth of about 7 per cent."

More than 200,000 applications for shares have been received and a last minute surge is expected as share shops send in their final batches of applications. Ordinary investors will pay for shares in two instalments, with the first 190p a share tranche being offered at a 10p discount to City institutions for investors who registered for applications in advance. These investors will receive a further 15p discount on the second payment on June 3 next year.

Shareholders still on the register in September this year will share £69 million of dividends for the financial year to the end of March this year, when the company was still in state ownership.

Pennington, page 29



Governor's view: Eddie George, who believes that the British economy will not be damaged by remaining outside a single European currency

# Bank limits Clarke's scope for rate cuts

BY JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England yesterday voiced its opposition to any further cuts in interest rates but appeared relaxed about rates remaining where they are for the time being.

In its latest quarterly *Inflation Report*, the Bank was a little more cautious than it was three months ago although even Mervyn King, the Bank's chief economist, acknowledged that there had been little change. The Bank said that it was now judged marginally more likely than not that underlying inflation would be above the Government's 2.5

per cent target in two years' time, given no change in interest rates. In February, it thought the target would, on balance, be hit.

Mr King made it clear that the Bank regarded the last cut in base rates in March as an insurance premium against short-term risks of the economy faltering as manufacturers struggle with the twin problems of huge stock levels and weaker exports to Europe.

He said: "There is a case for continuing to pay the premium for a short period, but it is not easy to see a case for increasing the premium." In other words, the Bank would not be happy if the Chancellor were to push for another cut in

rates below 6 per cent but is content to leave rates where they are for now.

The Bank believes that inflation will drop over the rest of this year to under the 2.5 per cent, the upper limit of the Government's target of 2.5 per cent or less. However, inflation is then expected to pick up, reaching 2.5 per cent or perhaps just above that level in two years' time.

Whether, and at what stage, the Bank starts to counsel higher rates will depend on whether the stocks situation and economic developments in Europe continue to act as a brake on the British economy and price pressures. On balance, the Bank appears to

believe that neither factor will be long-lived and serious. Thereafter, it said that the risks tend towards higher inflation, with the Bank expecting the engine of growth to switch from exports to consumer spending.

The Bank referred to the current economic situation in which manufacturing output has been stagnant but consumer spending appears to be picking up with a warning about the dangers of making policy against such a mixed backdrop. The *Inflation Report* said: "It was precisely at this juncture — with apparent short-term weakness in some sectors masking signs of more buoyant future activity — that

policy mistakes tended to be made in the past."

The City reacted calmly to the Bank's latest analysis of inflation. Some said that, in spite of the report's acknowledgement of short-term risks to the recovery, it would now be harder for the Chancellor to push through another rate cut.

Andrew Cates, of UBS Ltd, said base rates were more than likely to remain at their current 6 per cent but that there was still a possibility that the Chancellor might try for another cut if manufacturing continues to be weak. "Yesterday's report, however, means that this would almost certainly be without the Bank's blessing," he said.

## George foresees euro 'tensions'

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday rejected the argument that Britain would be damaged if it remained outside a single European currency, and warned that monetary union would make it difficult to tackle the challenge of high unemployment.

In a keynote lecture to an academic audience in Milan, Mr George laid out the arguments in favour of a single currency and then appeared to demolish most of them in more detail and in stronger

terms than he has done before.

The Governor acknowledged fears that, outside a single currency, Britain may be asked to pay a higher-risk premium on its bonds and perhaps lose out on foreign inward investment. But he said: "There is no reason that I can see why we should be significantly damaged in these ways so long as we persist in responsible macro-economic policies directed to stability."

But Mr George also went further than he has in previous speeches in casting doubt

on whether true economic convergence can be achieved — and then sustained in order to make a single currency a success — given high and varying levels of unemployment in Europe. He said that more and more member states believe that high unemployment is partly due to structural features of their economies and are embarking, for example, on programmes of deregulation and cutting back social provision, which will inevitably impact on European economies.

Some flexibility in setting budgets, interest and exchange rates would be helpful in trying to achieve these changes. Mr George went on: "Without such flexibility the only way of tackling unemployment would be through cuts in wages, which would be extraordinarily difficult to achieve."

"It is not difficult in those circumstances to envisage tensions arising for the single monetary policy," he said. "It is in this sense one can envisage political disharmony if the economics of Europe go wrong."

## General Accident cheers insurers

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY



Scott: rates increased

INSURANCE shares rose yesterday after General Accident announced healthy sales of life products and an increase in commercial and personal motor rates. The City took this as a sign that insurance rates had reached the bottom of the cycle and were starting to rise again.

GA shares gained 10p, to 684p, and shares in Royal Insurance, Sun Alliance and Guardian all rose several pence. Prices were supported by merger and takeover speculation and relief that GA's losses were not as bad as had been expected.

Weather losses in the UK and North America halved GA's first-quarter profits. Forecasts at the bottom of the range had put GA's pre-tax operating profit at about £50 million. In fact, it was £55 million, down from £112 million in the same quarter, to March 31, last year.

Bob Scott, chief executive, said that life and pensions sales had been healthy after the acquisition of Provident Mutual. This had helped to

## Halifax chief heads pay league

BY ANNE ASHWORTH



Scott: rates increased

counter worldwide bad-weather claims of £70 million.

GA put up commercial motor rates by 6 per cent in February and personal rates by 4 per cent in April. Mr Scott said: "It looks as though these rates will stick, but it is too early to say whether we will introduce further increases. We are looking to household and contents insurance for better returns."

UK underwriting fell to an £11 million loss (£41 million profit).

Tempus, page 30

## Deal heralds BCCI payout

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT



Foulds: rates increased

MIKE BLACKBURN, chief executive of the Halifax Building Society, saw his earnings rise from £378,603 to £404,793 in 1995, according to the society's report and accounts. The sum included a £78,750 bonus.

Mr Blackburn is now the best-paid chief in the building societies, a position formerly held by Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of Cheltenham & Gloucester, now part of Lloyds Bank. In 1994, C&G's last full year of independence, he was paid £54,462.

Jon Foulds, Halifax's part-time chairman, received a 25 per cent rise, from £180,138 to £225,233. His pay has risen by more than 40 per cent over two years, from £60,173 in 1993.

A Halifax spokesman said that Mr Foulds, who is supposed to work 180 days a year, is now working almost full-time as the society, now merged with the Leeds, prepares itself for its £10 billion flotation next year.

The liquidators, of Deloitte & Touche, refused to be drawn on when a payment would be

made or how much would be paid, saying: "The amount of the first dividend will be subject to court decisions which are currently in progress."

An Abu Dhabi spokesman said: "We welcome the completion of the \$1.8 billion agreement with the global liquidators. Our principal concern throughout this affair has been that depositors and creditors of BCCI are treated fairly."

He added: "The majority shareholders have consistently maintained that agreement with the liquidators is the only outcome capable of providing a significant return for creditors. We are pleased that our joint efforts in opposing attacks, that only served to delay payment, have been ultimately successful."

The liquidators had originally hoped to make a payment by next month, but priority claims by several groups of creditors may delay the payment until later in the summer.

The liquidators, of Deloitte & Touche, refused to be drawn on when a payment would be

## Worry over fall in labour market

BY PHILIP BASKETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

DECLINES in Britain's workforce may be hitting longer-term economic growth, the Treasury believes, and the change may reflect the impact of extensive job-cutting.

The Government will today issue the latest unemployment figures, with Whitehall and the City expecting a continuing monthly fall in unemployment of about 10,000 — although building employers yesterday said 30,000 construction jobs may go this year.

Ministers will claim today that declining unemployment indicates the success of government economic policies. Last month's 26,000 fall in seasonally adjusted claimant unemployment took the total of people jobless and claiming benefit, before today's figures, to just under 2.2 million.

Private estimates by Treasury officials about the shrinking workforce suggest that Britain's labour market performance may be hitting economic growth prospects.

After examining new figures on the size of the workforce, and official projections for it, Treasury officials believe that the fifth successive annual fall in the total labour force may imply a reduction in the longer-term trend growth of the economy.

The Treasury currently puts trend economic growth at about 2.5 per cent. While not yet putting any value on the effect of a declining workforce, Treasury officials believe that continuing falls in Britain's labour force may now be affecting growth.

Although the decline in the workforce reflects a range of factors, companies shedding jobs, especially among older men, is likely to be a central reason. The rise in jobs taken by women is not yet compensating for it.

Contrasting trends, page 31

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100 ..... 3759.7 (+20.5)

FT-SE All share ..... 1800.25 (+7.41)

Nickel ..... 21301.05 (+129.23)

New York ..... 3011.78 (+29.18)\*

S&amp;P Composite ..... 884.42 (+3.24)\*

INTEREST RATES

Federal Funds ..... 5.75% (5.75%)

Long Bond ..... 8.85% (8.85%)

Yield ..... 8.65% (8.65%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month libor ..... 8.75% (8.75%)

Libi long gilt future (Jun) ..... 108% (108%)

STERLING

New York ..... 1.6161\* (1.5160)

London ..... 1.5153 (1.5141)

DM ..... 2.3227 (2.3220)

FF ..... 7.8782 (7.8533)

SP ..... 1.8582 (1.8520)

Yen ..... 105.78 (104.95)

E Index ..... 94.7 (94.7)

US DOLLAR

London ..... 1.5359\* (1.5326)

DM ..... 1.5155\* (1.5160)

FF ..... 1.2516\* (1.2495)

SP ..... 1.0578\* (1.0495)

Yen ..... 104.7 (104.7)

Tokyo close Yen 105.05

INTEREST RATES

Bank 15-day JLIB ..... 918.68 (\$18.60)

London close ..... 991.76 (\$301.36)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Power cut

PowerGen yesterday abandoned hopes of relaunching a bid for Midlands Electricity, the company it was stopped from buying by the Government. PowerGen sold its 21 per cent stake yesterday, clearing the way for the third takeover of a regional company by American buyers. Page 29

## Warning

Shares in Courtaulds Textiles fell 45p to 375p after the Marks & Spencer underwear supplier and owner of the Gossard, Aristoc and Berlei brands gave a profits warning. Page 32

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# Construction leaders scorn Gummer optimism

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government and the construction industry clashed yesterday when ministers proclaimed a "lift" for the whole industry but building leaders saw no end to recession and forecast up to 30,000 job losses this year.

The acutely differing views underline both the Government's efforts to improve perceptions of economic performance and the belief of many business leaders, especially in manufacturing, that prospects are now gloomy.

John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, said that new departmental figures for construction orders and starts "will bring a lift to the whole industry". Prospects for improvement and further growth this year were now good, he said. "I expect increasing demand and an improvement in the wider housing market to continue."

## 'US links must be nurtured'

HOWARD Davies, Bank of England deputy governor, said last night at a British-American Chamber of Commerce dinner in London, that the UK cannot ignore its "most important non-European relationship" with the US (Patricia Tehan writes).

Real and financial trends are closely aligned, he said, adding: "The US economy began to pick up slightly earlier than ours, turning in 1991, rather than in 1992. But since then the profile has been remarkably similar, both in terms of real growth and interest rates." He said this parallel experience contrasted with continental Europe.



Malcolm Edwards, founder of Coal Investments, will see Hem Heath closed and three other pits auctioned

## Germany and France look set to fail EMU test

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission is expected today to forecast the failure of Germany, France and most other EU states to meet the strict tests for launching a monetary union, but the figures are unlikely to quell a growing belief that the euro will be born on time.

The slowdown on the Continent has forced the Commission to scale back its economic outlook, a twice-yearly ritual

that carries special importance because the test for monetary union will be applied to performance in 1997. The founding members of EMU are due to be chosen on this basis early in 1998 before the euro's planned birthday on January 1, 1999.

The present stagnation means that only three countries — Luxembourg, Ireland and Denmark — are likely to meet the Maastricht criteria

for monetary union this year, Commission sources said.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl will be at the Commission on an official visit today when the team of Yves-Thibault de Silgy, the monetary commissioner, puts the finishing touches to its most sensitive forecast: the ability of Germany to meet the target of a budget deficit of 3 per cent of GDP. Despite last-minute adjustments to allow for Herr Kohl's new austerity package, it is expected to predict a figure of about 3.5 per cent.

Germany was lobbying hard

to convince the Commission that its deficit-cutting programme, announced last week, should be credited with better results.

With its own economic

troubles, France, the other state deemed vital to launching

EMU, is expected to achieve just under 4 per cent, from about 4.5 per cent this year.

Ireland, close to meeting the

EMU test despite its opt-out

from the project, is likely to

overshoot the budget target by a small margin.

## Gas firms turn up heat

GAS companies yesterday rounded on British Gas, calling for an even more punitive pricing control than the one proposed by Ofgas which could cut £50 from bills (Christine Buckley writes).

The Gas Forum, the group of independent companies that the demerger of TransCo and British Gas Trading, will be able to go ahead on the row between the company and the regulator goes to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

tion, should be valued at £6 billion — its rate at privatisation. TransCo believes it is worth £17 billion, while Ofgas said it was worth £9.21 billion.

British Gas shares fell 6p to 195p with City doubts growing that the demerger of TransCo and British Gas Trading, will be able to go ahead on the row between the company and the regulator goes to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Division as building societies gather

THE annual conference of the Building Societies Association gets under way tonight in Birmingham with the membership split into two factions: the larger societies which would rather be banks, versus the confirmed mutualists. Since last year's conference, four more top-ten societies, Alliance & Leicestershire, Woolwich, Bristol & West and Northern Rock, have announced their intention of joining the Halifax on the road to the stock market and a new life as banks.

Some other societies, including Nationwide, the second largest in the league, Bradford & Bingley and Britannia, have become increasingly outspoken in their defence of mutuality, where a society is owned by its borrowing and saving members. They have launched borrower discounts to prove that mutuality can be as valuable as flotation handouts.

### Airbus in joint talks

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE, the European aircraft consortium, has confirmed it is in talks with other companies, including McDonnell Douglas, to jointly produce a jumbo aircraft able to challenge the monopoly position held by Boeing's 747. Christian Boppe, a spokesman for Airbus member Daimler-Benz Aerospace, yesterday said that talks were taking place on several fronts, but that negotiations were at an early stage. Airbus officials believe the super Airbus, the A-3XX, could cost up to \$12 billion to develop.

### Forte to quit Savoy

SIR Rocco Forte is to resign from the board of the Savoy Group next week, marking the formal end of a 14-year battle to take control of the company. Sir Rocco and Sir Anthony Tennant, his former deputy chairman at the Forte Group, will step down as directors of Savoy at its board meeting on May 20. Forte Group, which owns 68 per cent of the hotel's group, was taken over for £3.8 billion by Granada earlier this year. Granada is working with the management and minority shareholders to find a buyer for its Savoy shares.

### Littlewoods jobs cut

THE National Lottery jinx hit Littlewoods employees again yesterday as the pools company revealed it is cutting a further 600 jobs. Littlewoods has now lost more than half of its pool's workforce since the lottery was launched at the end of 1994. After the job cuts are complete, Littlewoods will employ about 1,350 workers, compared with more than 3,000 before the lottery began. The latest job cuts include 318 redundancies at the company's Hillington complex in Glasgow and 280 in Liverpool and Birkenhead.

### Whitbread acquisition

WHITBREAD is acquiring Labatt Brewing UK, the premium lager company whose brands include Rolling Rock, Labatt Blue and Labatt Ice, for an undisclosed sum. The vendor is Interbrew, the privately owned Belgian company that acquired Labatt Brewing UK as part of its US\$2 billion takeover of John Labatt Co, the Canadian brewing group, last year. Whitbread is already Interbrew's licensee for the Belgian brewer's leading Stella Artois brand. The agreement does not include the John Labatt retail pub business.

### United water deal near

UNITED UTILITIES' water division is poised to take on half the development and operation of ten water treatment plants in South Australia. North West Water, which last year took over Norweb to become United Utilities, is preferred bidder along with two partners for the £45 million building project. The plants will be built over three years, with the first commissioned next year. Brian Staples, chief executive of United Utilities, said the deal "marks further expansion of our successful international operations".

### Exchange link with SEC

THE Stock Exchange has signed an agreement with the US Securities and Exchange Commission under which they will pool regulatory information when shares are traded on both markets. The new arrangement replaces a previously informal arrangement under which information was shared. Under the revised arrangements, the SEC and Exchange will notify one another if either takes steps to suspend a company's shares, or takes any other public action against an issuer.

## TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Bank Buys	Bank Sells	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$ ...	1.98	1.03	1.95
Austria Sch ...	17.95	15.85	17.95
Belgium Fr ...	50.71	40.41	50.71
Canada \$ ...	2.175	2.016	2.175
Cyprus Cyp ...	0.759	0.704	0.759
Denmark Kr ...	9.58	8.78	9.58
Finland Mark ...	7.76	7.11	7.76
France Fr ...	8.28	7.61	8.28
Germany Dm ...	2.48	2.27	2.48
Greece Dr ...	385.00	360.00	385.00
Hong Kong \$ ...	12.95	11.36	12.95
Ireland Pt ...	1.02	0.94	1.02
Israel Shek ...	5.2700	4.6200	5.2700

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WITNESSED BY

John Edwards

Mrs. M. Edwards

□ Investors await Allied's exit from brewing □ Railtrack's price could be raised □ Bank comfort for Clarke and Brown

□ BREWING is the glue that sticks Allied Domecq together, and horribly sticky and enduring it is turning out to be. There is little to be done until the appropriate solvent comes to hand.

Tony Hale, chief executive, ended his briefing to the City yesterday on a note of genuine contrition, accepting that shareholders have had to wait too long for a decent payback on their investment. The main interest was over the future of Carlsberg-Tetley, the three-year-old brewing joint venture with the Danes. The 20 per cent profits fall having been presaged at the annual meeting in February. A pity, therefore, that the board had so little to say.

Carlsberg-Tetley has been on the auction block for the best part of a year with Bass now clearly identified as buyer, so the lack of solid progress is disturbing. There are two snags. Allied's pub estate is locked into a supply agreement at high prices, while the emergence of Bass as Britain's biggest brewer again with almost two fifths of the market raises competition problems.

The supply deal limits further improvements Allied can make on its retail estate. The company would dearly love to unload more "community pubs" — for which read low-profit boozers — and concentrate on branded outlets, now a third of the estate,

but not until the destination of all that expensive beer is settled.

The worry is that Allied, for reasons beyond its control such as the refusal of the Danes to accept the necessary loss, may have left it too long. The venture is in the books at £300 million, but this price might have to come down to compensate for the ending of the supply deal.

Last year, when a sale was first mooted, it was assumed the competition authorities would allow it through in some form after Scotch Courage was allowed to move ahead as Britain's biggest brewer. But since then rulings on competition have become more capricious, most notably in the electricity industry. The temptation must be overpowering, this close to an election, to kick any deal involving the closure of breweries and the loss of jobs to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Until Carlsberg-Tetley is sorted, it is hard to focus on the merits of the rest of Allied Domecq. Mr Hale declined to say how many drinks brands would have to be sold, or even how many Allied has on its

books. The concentration of marketing spend on a core 15 or so would allow huge cost savings, probably in excess of the £5 million indicated yesterday.

The shares sell on an average market rating of 15 times this year's earnings, which suggests some upside once the glue is finally unstuck. Allied has to get it right, or Sir Christopher Hogg, the new chairman, will take appropriate action at boardroom level. An exit from brewing at a low price could always be blamed on previous management, in the cynical way that these things tend to be done. The question is the timing of that exit.

#### Deferring to the stags

□ WHEN the man at the ticket agency warns you that seats are in danger of running out, he may not be acting out of concern for your evening's entertainment. Likewise, those sources close to the Railtrack float who talked of overwhelming City interest the day before the books close to the public might have had their own



PENNINGTON

interests to promote. Railtrack has been one of the most political state sell-offs ever, and neither of the main parties has come out of the affair covered in much glory. Labour has fudged and muddled, so driving the price down and depriving the Exchequer of income, but said little of worth, capping it all with wildly misleading leaks of a couple of brokers' surveys.

These, it has been suggested by the Opposition, advise that the float be shunned. Quite the opposite, which is why the City has bought in so heavily. Lloyds and NatWest merely warned long-term holders of the possible damage from Labour policy.

Ministers have responded by pricing the float too low, with

some £69 million of unwarranted extra dividends thrown in as a panic measure. The result will probably be a last-minute rush of forms from share shops this morning and 40 per cent or more of the shares going to the public.

The City thus deprived, and upwards pressure put on the shares once they start trading, the issue can be judged a success as these things go. But here is a suggestion. If there is such an appetite for Railtrack shares, why not break with precedent and confound the critics by pricing the shares well above the indicative 350p to 390p range?

The reason, alas, is that the last thing ministers want is a few hundred thousand small investors deprived of the staggering profits they regard as their right.

With the economist's peculiar ability to detect a dark cloud within every silver lining, the Bank's latest quarterly report finds a short-term risk from weak export markets and excessive stocks. But subsequent growth in investment and consumer spending might put up

ward pressure on inflation later. This is not to suggest a dramatic surge in inflation into the start of the next electoral term. In inimitable Bank-speak, the report says it is "marginally more likely than not" that inflation will be above target. Any incoming Chancellor can be assured that any rate rise he has to make will be modest. It may even establish an immediate reputation for financial probity.

#### Jobs for the boys

□ SHOWING an admirable willingness to bite the hand that feeds him, Denis MacShane is today enjoying the centenary celebrations of the Engineering Employers' Federation at the House of Commons just hours after calling for the EEF's disappearance. The Labour MP for Rotherham has put down a ten-minute rule Bill for a radical cull of employers' bodies.

He accuses them, quite rightly, of "permanent column-inch warfare"; the CBI says this, the Institute of Directors says the opposite, and so on. The EEF and the CBI were in merger talks a few years ago to produce one voice for manufacturing, but nothing came of it. But why does one suspect that there are too many vested interests, not to say lucrative jobs, in the system as it now stands?



Danny Rosenkranz, left, BOC chief executive, and Tony Isaac, finance director, at the firm's plant in Surrey

## BOC shrugs off problems in US with 12% advance

BY PAUL DURMAN

BOC GROUP, the industrial gases and healthcare group, has shrugged off problems in the US healthcare market to report a 12 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £217.4 million.

Danny Rosenkranz, BOC chief executive, said consolidation among US hospitals had hit orders for the anaesthetic machines made by Ohmeda, the group's healthcare arm. The lost US sales were almost entirely to blame for a 9 per cent fall in healthcare profits to £28.4 million.

BOC said that it broadly

maintained its share of the anaesthetic gas market. Ohmeda's best-seller, Forane, now faces strong competition from generic rivals.

Mr Rosenkranz ruled out any sale of the healthcare business: "It is not often appreciated how strong we are around the operating room and, increasingly, around the intensive care unit."

The exception is Delta Biotechnology, a Nottingham firm working on a broad replacement compound that costs BOC about £9 million a year. Mr Rosenkranz said:

"The technology has reached a level where it has value. We are looking to find a way of releasing that value."

BOC Gases increased its contribution by 10 per cent to £197.8 million, with good results from the North Pacific, Europe, the Americas and South Africa. In the UK, BOC enjoyed strong demand and reduced overheads but Mr Rosenkranz acknowledged "slight concern" about prospects for liquid oxygen and liquid nitrogen in the US.

Gas sales rose to £1.38 billion, out of a group total of £1.98 billion for the six months to March 1996. Earnings per share for the half increased by 11 per cent to 27.8p.

Edwards, page 30

## Hodder Headline issues surprise profit warning

BY SARAH BAGNALL

SHARES of Hodder Headline fell by nearly 14 per cent yesterday after the publishing group issued a surprise profit warning.

The news came less than a month after the group, which publishes best-selling authors such as Rosamunde Pilcher and John Le Carré, revealed a 30.5 per cent slide in pre-tax profits to £5.7 million in the year to December 31.

Tim Hely Hutchinson, chief executive, warned shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting that first-half profits are "expected to be less than half that reported for the comparative period in 1995".



Hely Hutchinson: downbeat

The shares fell 36p to 224p on the news.

The decline in profits is in spite of an expected 15 per cent rise in first-half sales, which

were boosted by the successful launches of several titles, including Ms Pilcher's *Coming Home*. The fall in profits reflects pressure on margins.

Mr Hely Hutchinson added that the split of profits between the two halves is likely to shift further towards the second half.

He said: "Looking ahead, we believe the relative profitability of the first and second halves will prove to have been abnormal in 1994 and 1995 and we expect a stronger weighting towards the second half, not only in 1996 but also, all else being equal, in future years."

Tempus, page 29

## Allied Domecq to tighten its belt

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

ALLIED DOMEQ, the troubled drinks company, yesterday promised to focus on branding and cost-saving measures as the company unveiled a 20 per cent fall in half-year profit to £321 million.

But there was no further indication of the fate of Carlsberg-Tetley, the brewing arm joint-owned with Carlsberg, despite speculation that a sale is imminent. Tony Hale, chief executive, said Allied would concentrate on seeing through the restructuring programme, culminating with the closure

of the Warrington brewery in October. Profits at Carlsberg-Tetley rose 14 per cent to £25 million in the half-year, but overall volumes fell 3 per cent.

Profits in the spirits and wine division fell 21 per cent to £258 million, while those in the Mexican division doubled in Peso terms, although the December devaluation of the Mexican currency caused sterling profits to fall by £6 million to £26 million.

Allied said it aims to target its spirits portfolio at 15 key brands, including Beefeater gin, Ballantines whisky and

Kahlua, with the marketing spend increasing 5 per cent to £221 million. Profits in the retailing division were 2 per cent ahead at £108 million. The total number of pubs fell by 3 per cent as Allied moved to comply with OFT requirements.

The company said it had saved £12 million through cost cutting in the half-year and expects savings made over the past four years to exceed £50 million next year. An unchanged interim dividend of 9.44p is payable on July 26.

Pennington, this page

## Cantab to raise £25m for R&D

BY PAUL DURMAN

CANTAB Pharmaceuticals, the biotechnology company, has announced plans to raise £25 million.

It will use the money to continue the development of its proposed treatments for herpes and genital warts, and of its innovative DISC virus technology.

Cantab is not offering its shareholders pre-emption rights over the new shares, largely because of the problems caused by its listing on the Nasdaq market in the US. The venture capitalists that still own about 30 per cent of Cantab are not expected to buy new shares in the issue, which has yet to be priced.

Cantab's first-quarter results showed an increased pre-tax loss of £1.8 million (£1.6 million).

## Hongkong Telecom profits rise by 14.3%

BY GEORGE SIVELL

HONGKONG TELECOM, 57 per cent owned by Cable and Wireless, has survived the loss of its domestic monopoly, making a net profit of HK\$9.44 billion (£64 million) in the year to March 31, up 14.3 per cent from HK\$8.70 billion and in line with analysts' forecasts.

Brian Smith, chairman of Cable and Wireless and Hongkong Telecom, said that C&W had no immediate plans to sell a stake in Hongkong Telecom. He added that China had viewed C&W's recent merger talks with BT as a commercial transaction.

Mr Smith reaffirmed that no further discussions would be held with BT. Speculation is rife in Hong Kong that Chinese or Chinese-backed interests are seeking a stake in Hongkong Telecom before the colony reverts to China in July next year. Turnover for the

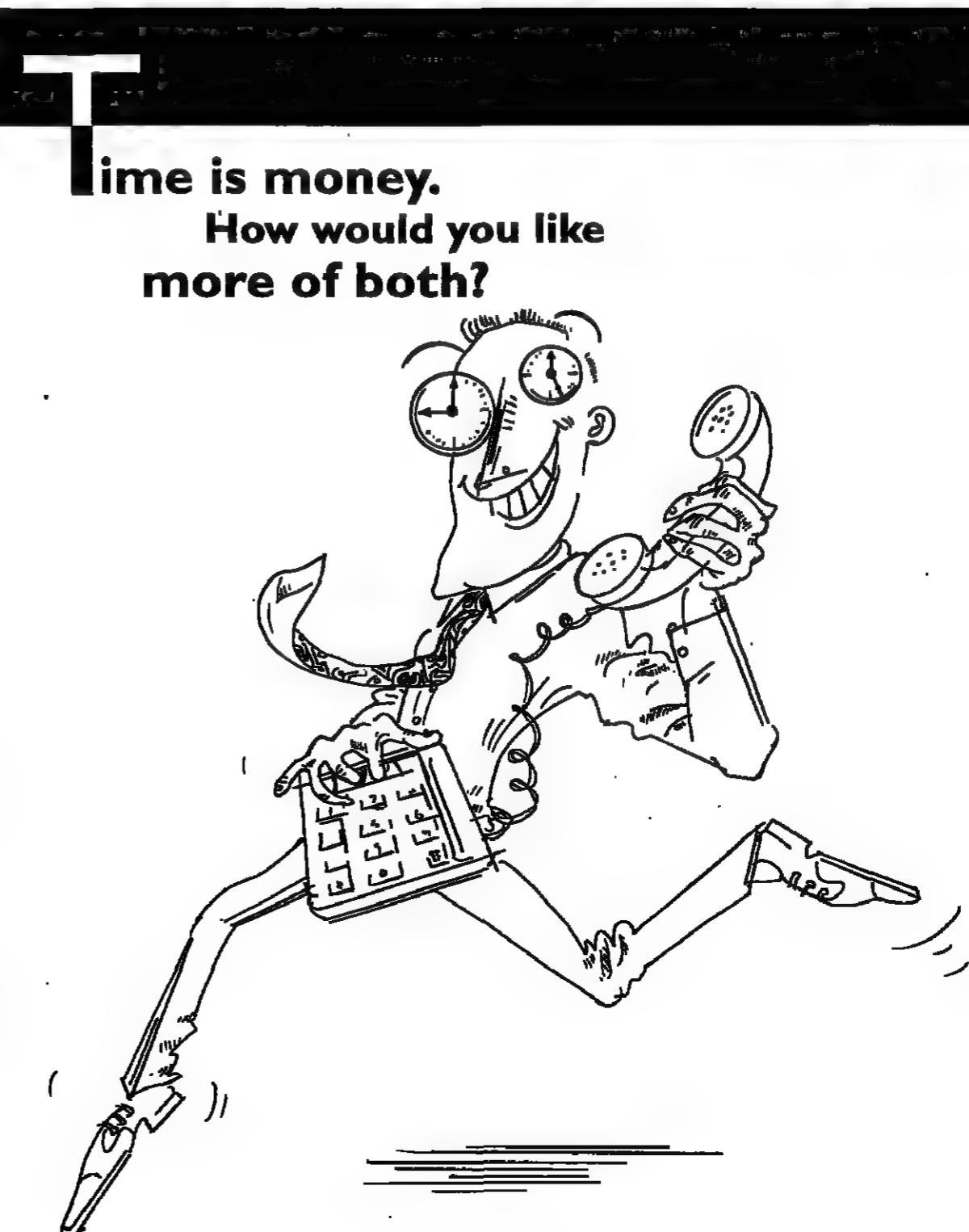
## PowerGen sells stake in Midlands

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

POWERGEN yesterday abandoned hope of relaunching a bid for Midlands Electricity, the company it was vetoed from buying by the Government when it sold its 21 per cent stake. This helps to clear the way for the third takeover of a regional company by US buyers.

PowerGen reacted strongly when Ian Lung, President of the Board of Trade, said its bid — with that of National Power for Southern Electric — could not proceed. The company said it was looking at a judicial challenge to the block. It is no longer expected to follow this path.

PowerGen, which today announces annual results, sold its holding in Midlands to the new bidder for the company — the US utilities General Public Utilities and Cinergy, for £69 million profit.



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# Utilities suffer in wake of gas price review

INVESTORS in most of the privatised utilities were left with burnt fingers yesterday after electricity and water stocks were marked sharply lower as dealers digested the implications of Monday's dramatic price review by Ofgas.

British Gas continued to suffer from the shock review by the gas industry regulator and its shares took another battering. The shares fell 6p to 195p, on huge turnover of 83.3 million shares traded, giving a two-day loss of 33p.

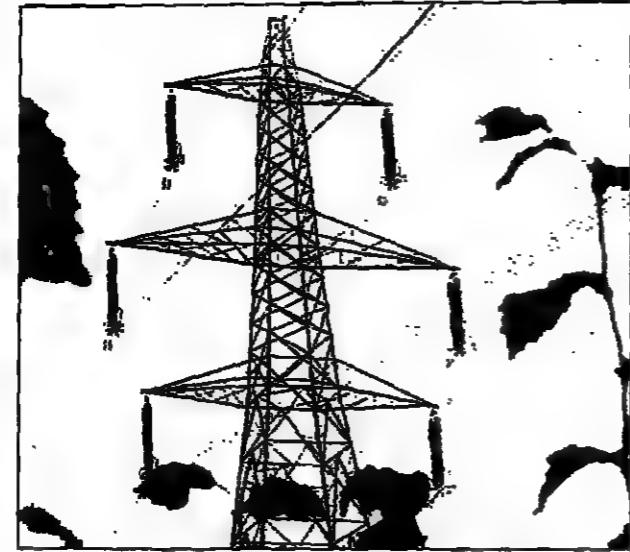
Nigel Hawkins of Yamaichi sees British Gas shares slipping back further to the 175p-180p level. Most analysts also dismissed the idea that British Gas may become a bid target, although one or two think that BP, up 10p to 567p, or Shell, 14p stronger at 914p, could be tempted if the price is right.

The Ofgas review, concern about a tougher stance from other regulators and an absence of news on any of the much-talked-of bids from the United States took a toll of other utilities, with widespread losses for most of the regional electricity companies and water utilities.

Among electricity companies, East Midlands fell 23p to 588p, London 26p to 732p, Northern 19p to 60p, Southern 9p to 81p and Yorkshire 27p to 762p. National Grid was another casualty, losing 6p to 186.7p, on volume of 13.7 million shares.

PowerGen went against the negative trend, surging 8p to 547p after confirming it has sold its 20.4 per cent stake, or 80.3 million shares, in Midlands Electricity (MEB) up 42p, to Avon Energy Partners of the US. The shares were sold at 440p, giving PowerGen a total of £353.5 million and providing it with a pre-tax profit of £69 million on the transaction. Avon Energy Partners is a joint venture company formed by General Public Utilities Corp and Cinergy Corp for the purchase of MEB. Avon's agreed 1.7 billion offer, made earlier this month, is worth 420p in cash plus a 20p special dividend. PowerGen has brought its results forward to today and there was some market talk the figures may be accompanied by a special dividend.

Among weaker water stocks, Anglian dipped 10p to 564p, Hyder 9p to 716p, Southern 14p to 700p, Thames 5p to 569p, Wessex 7p to 312p and Yorkshire 17p to 200p. The rest of the equity market turned in a solid performance, buoyed by a strong overnight performance in New York and firmer bonds. The Bank of England's latest Quarterly Bulletin pointed to higher inflation, with the Bank raising its medium-term inflation forecast, dampening hopes of another interest rate cut.



Regulatory fears hit shares in power companies

625p. The rest of the equity market turned in a solid performance, buoyed by a strong overnight performance in New York and firmer bonds. The Bank of England's latest Quarterly Bulletin pointed to higher inflation, with the Bank raising its medium-term inflation forecast, dampening hopes of another interest rate cut.

Thomas Potts, the printing company, made a sparkling debut on the Alternative Investment Market. A placing at 100p, accompanied by a 19-for-one bonus issue, gave an initial placing price of 5p. But heavy demand saw the shares double to 10p by the close.

Another positive start on Wall Street reinforced sentiment in late London trading. The FT-SE 100 index rose 20.5 to 3,759.7. However, second-liners, influenced by a poor performance by utilities, saw the FT-SE 250 slip 2.6 points to 4,509.8. Volume reached 760.7 million shares.

Late rumours swirled round City dealing rooms of an imminent big deal in the

over talk by saying it was considering selling all or part of its 32.2 per cent stake, succumbed to profit-taking. The shares fell 3p to 249p.

In contrast to British Gas's grim performance this week, it was a different story for another gas supplier as BOC reported a solid 12 per cent advance in first-half profits. Shares in the industrial and healthcare gases group gained

7p to 931p. Among others reporting, Allied Domex offered little to cheer its shareholders when it unveiled 20 per cent slide in first-half profits. The fall had been expected though shares lost 5p to 497p. General Accident, in line with other insurers, suffered from weather claims in the first quarter, but the continuing takeover speculation in the sector helped the shares to surge 19p to 654p.

BT, also depressed by the regulator's tough stance on privatised utilities, lost 7p to 326.2p, on volume of 14.3 million shares traded.

Hodder Headline stomped 30p to 224p on a gloomy results warning at the book publisher's annual meeting.

A similar bleak message for investors at the Wace annual meeting saw shares in the printing services group dive 44p to 223p. The company said the first half of 1995 will be slightly lower than those of the second half of last year. The group said that while results had improved in March and April, they are still not at satisfactory levels. UK margins and sales have been hit by destocking, higher raw material costs and price pressures.

A US presentation and a Cazenovia buy note helped Inspex Group to add 18p to 344p, but Arjo Wiggins dipped 4p to 178p on reports of a sell recommendation from SBC Warburg. Rentokil eased 5p to 397p after Kleinwort Benson switched its stance from buy to hold.

Meyer International, the building materials group that owns the Jevons builders' merchants chain, rose 5p to 453p on recent speculation of a possible bid from Wolseley, which was squeezed 18p higher to 476p.

GILT-EDGED: International bonds helped gilts to an early rise and the upward trend resumed after mid-session volatility, inspired by the Bank of England's inflation rate. The June long gilt future added 18 ticks to 1062 1/2, as 47,000 contracts were traded. Among conventional stocks, gains stretched to 1% for longer-dated issues, while shorts rose 1/4 and index-linked 1%.

■ NEW YORK: A decline in bond yields and indications of moderate growth sent bullish signals to Wall Street and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 29.18 points higher at 5,611.78.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)	1,117.78 (+0.10)
Dow Jones	1,117.78 (+0.10)
S&P Composite	564.55 (+3.34)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	21,301.05 (+129.29)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10,817.00 (-71.98)
Amsterdam:	
EDE Index	957.91 (+2.24)
Sydney:	
ASX	2261.81 (+4.59)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2191.73 (+23.56)
Singapore:	
Straits	2,065.17 (+20.39)
Brussels:	
General	9193.89 (+47.97)
Paris:	
CAC-40	21,222.08 (+21.23)
Zurich:	
SEA Gen	786.10 (+4.70)
London:	
FT 30	2,001.7 (+7.29)
FT-SE	2,079.7 (+20.5)
FT-SE 250	4,509.8 (+2.68)
FT-SE 350	10,963.6 (+7.89)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	10,788.1 (+10.23)
FT-SE All-Share	10,902.5 (+7.41)
FT Non Financials	3,012.2 (+1.46)
FT Fixed Interest	111.92 (+0.49)
FT Stock Socs	62.48 (+0.29)
Bangkok	3,345
SEAO Volume	770,400
US (Wallstreet)	218,633 (+0.22)
US	1,756.0 (+0.09)
German Mark	1,306.0 (+0.08)
French Franc	94.7 (+0.39)
Bank of England official close (pmt)	1,2177
TECU	1,047
EPU	151.5 Mar 2.794 Jan 1997/100
EPU	150.9 Mar 2.794 Jan 1997/100

London:

FT 30

FT-SE

FT-SE 250

FT-SE 350

FT-SE Eurotrack 100

FT-SE All-Share

FT Non Financials

FT Fixed Interest

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FT-SE 250

FT-SE 350

THE  
TIMES  
CITY  
DIARY

Otherwise  
engaged

PLENTY of time for happy memories to come flooding back at yesterday's memorial service for David Bandy, former chief executive of BZW. Caught in terrible London traffic, Bandy's widow Olivia arrived 20 minutes late at Southwark Cathedral. Many of the City's senior executives mused merrily on what would have been "Bando's" view of the events. One mumbled: "He'd have roared at the idea of all these dealers being kept from their mobile telephones."

On hold

**FIDELITY BROKERAGE** has been forced to apologise to customers by way of letter, because of a drastic drop in standards of service. In a personal tone, David Pluchinsky, president, admits "customers have experienced a quality of service from us that has fallen well short of the high standards we set ourselves". Teething problems with a new computer system has led to "unacceptably long delays" in getting through to staff on the telephone.

Republican star

**PETER KIRWAN**, editor of *Business Age*, who is currently fighting a ruling over his magazine's £2.2 billion estimate of the Queen's worth, has been spotted dining among staunch republicans. The Common Sense Club, founded by Professor Stephen Haseler, republican polemicist Anthony Holden, and PR consultant Brian Basham invited Kirwan to their recent powwow at L'Etoile.



"Some of us have reading difficulties"

Fraternity

**THE** British Ambassador to Paris will welcome Jacques Chirac to a City lunch at the Guildhall today, with 360 bottles of Bally bought from his younger brother Anthony, executive chairman of Mentzendorff & Co. Since 1858, the firm has represented Bollinger in the UK.

Feeling flat

**MICHAEL LONGSHAW**, managing director of London's Capital Club, is particularly upset over Will Carling's divorce and the rugby captain's less-than-perfect performance on pitch. Last year, Longshaw invested £1,000 in a magnum of champagne, signed by Will and the English team, which he hoped Capital Club members would pay a right Royal price for. So far, the highest bidder has pitched a measly £130.

**Royal revelation**  
THE paint is still drying on the walls of the Baltic Exchange in preparation for the Duke of Edinburgh's visit today. Prince Philip, who was due to open the new Exchange building last November, had to pull out at the eleventh hour after Bill Clinton arrived unexpectedly at Buck House. As an honorary member, the Duke will unveil a £30,000 tympanum — a 15-foot replica of the stonework that graced the entrance to the original Exchange building before it was bombed in 1992.

MORAG PRESTON

# Contrasting trends among jobless threaten growth

Philip Bassett on  
the vanishing  
workforce and  
the unemployed  
young and old

**S**oon after the Government announces today what ministers hope will be another fall in unemployment, Tony Blair will unveil Labour's plans to tackle a "lost generation" of jobless young people. Labour's proposals for the under-25s, under the title of Target 2000, will include the scrapping of the current Youth Training scheme, as forecast by *The Times* last week, as well as further moves on the party's welfare-to-work plans. This comes as UK business leaders, spearheaded by Howard Davies, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, have begun to urge organisations in the UK to push for "balanced-age" workforce.

Both moves reflect a deeper concern among senior economic policymakers about the impact on Britain's economic and competitive performance of its shrinking workforce — not just the ravages of still-high unemployment, whatever today's changes in the number of people out of work and claiming benefit show, but the fact that the number of people ready, willing and able to work at all now seems set on a decline.

The Government last week published, unnoticed, new figures showing that Britain's workforce fell again in 1995 — for the fifth year running. While a one-year fall may be a blip, and two an interesting phenomenon, five looks like a trend. The cumulative drop in the workforce over the five-year period amounts to 492,000 people.

Out of a workforce of 27.7 million, such a drop — even the cumulative figure amounts to only 1.8 per cent of the current total — looks like small change. But the direction of the movement, as much as the scale of it, is enough to cause alarm bells to ring in the economic policy citadels of Britain.

Treasury officials are privately making clear their concern about the trend, to the extent of giving warnings that it may well lead to a reduction in Britain's long-term economic growth rate. While even privately they put no definite figures on their judgment yet, their view contrasts markedly with that of their political master, Kenneth Clarke.

The Chancellor managed in the last Budget's accompanying *Red Book* to lift the official estimate of the economy's long-term sustainable growth rate from 2.25 to 2.5 per cent, though he is said to believe that the real rate may be nearer 3 per cent.

The Treasury's private concerns about the economic impact of a falling workforce coincides with similar developments elsewhere. In the US, in particular, key gurus of job-cutting, who dressed it up in fashionable euphemisms such as "downsizing" and "restructuring", are now recanting. President Clinton's study group on downsizing is likely to come up with policy recommendations for greater



The predicted rise in the number of men in the workforce over the next ten years is less than the fall in the past five

corporate citizenship which have been strongly promoted in America by Robert Reich, his Labor Secretary.

In the UK, from its all-time high of 28.2 million in the spring of 1990, before the recession hit, Britain's workforce has been falling steadily. Or more precisely, Britain's male workforce has. Over the period 1990-95, the number of men in the labour force fell by 498,000 — down from just over 16 million to 15.6 million, or a drop of 3.1 per cent. At the same time, the female labour force grew, by a marginal 6,000, to 12.2 million. What the Treasury and others are now concerned about is the effect of such changes on Britain's productive capacity: that the economy cannot grow in line with the longer-term trend in

number of men in the workforce is set to increase over the next decade by 429,000, or 2.75 per cent, while the number of women is forecast to go up by 1.1 million, or more than 9 per cent. If such estimates are in any way correct, they will still not balance out the decline in the male labour force since the start of the 1990s: over the whole period 1990-2006, the number of men in the labour force will be down by 69,000.

This reflects longer-running trends. Since 1971, the number of women in the labour market has risen by almost a third, from 9.4 million to 12.1 million in 1995. At the same time, in spite of the ups and downs of job creation and loss, the male workforce is, at 15.6 million in 1995, effectively the same as in 1971.

Within all this, age is an important factor, as Mr Blair will underline today and Mr Davies emphasised on Monday from opposite — though both insist, not contradict — ends of the spectrum of concern. As downsizing companies have shed their older and mainly male employees, taking the cost on the

pension fund, early retirements have risen sharply and more men have moved out of the workforce.

Drawing on a complex blend of birth rates, fertility rates (which affect economic activity rates for women under 45), immigration levels, and overall activity rates, including the effect of more people staying on longer in full-time education, the Government's Office for National Statistics suggests a changed future shape for the UK workforce over the next decade. The Government suggests, for instance, that by 2006, Britain's workforce will be older, driven by a projected rise of 1.9 million people in the 35-54 age band, and a fall of 1.2 million in the under-35 age range.

## Such figures with obvious implications offer a startling challenge

now are already having an impact. Take unemployment. Business leaders launching their Employers for Age campaign this week said that in emphasising the commercial and economic importance of both recruiting and retaining older workers, they were not pushing a second-order economic issue against the more pressing concerns of often long-term unemployed young people.

While accepting the importance of not dispensing with experience, Mr Blair and a galaxy of Labour figures will today in the August surroundings of the Institution of Civil Engineers see the creation of a new economic environment for young people as a central priority for an incoming Labour government.

Although unemployment overall is down, over the past year a disturbing new trend has emerged: at the same time as the overall fall in joblessness, unemployment among young people aged 16-19 is rising again. The story is different among young men and young women. Unemployment among women aged 16-19 fell, by 4.4 per cent, in line with decreases in all the female age bands. But among males aged 16-19, unemployment was up by 9.6 per cent in a single year. Only among the small number of men still in the workforce beyond retirement age — estimated at around 250,000 — did unemployment rise more rapidly. Such figures, with their obvious implications for social cohesion, let alone economic performance, offer a startling challenge to policymakers.

Thus, the worrying demographics of the labour market lurk behind today's political arguments. If the Government's projections are right, and Britain's workforce starts to grow again, then economic growth, if not assured, is at least likely to maintain its trend levels. But if the pattern of the 1990s so far continues, and Britain's workforce continues to decline, then the Treasury's public concerns may spill over into the private arena.

## Victoria McKee looks at a campaign to benefit frequent flyers



Farrol Kahn, the founder and first director of the Aviation Health Institute: "The airline industry is the only one with no health executive"

## Blast of fresh air for aviation health

**S**ir Peter Walters, chairman of SmithKline Beecham, used to feel "like a caged lion" on long-haul flights. Then he discovered that if he broke them up with a golfing stopover or to go swimming he'd arrive fresher and ready to do business.

SmithKline Beecham is one of the corporate sponsors behind a new Aviation Health Institute to be launched today by that frequent flyer Sir David Frost, who makes some 30 transatlantic trips a year. Paul Nicholson, a senior vice-president with the company, who spends half his time in the US and half in Britain, keeps identical wardrobes in both countries to try to feel less disoriented. He, too, understands the strains that long-distance flights place on the business traveller, hence his role on the executive council of the new institute, together with senior executives and medical advisers of Marks & Spencer, Glaxo Wellcome, BP, Bupa, PPP, Mercantile & General Reinsurance, Harper Colfrane, Vodafone and the RAF.

The AHI's scientific advisory committee is chaired by Sir Magdi Yacoub, the cardio-thoracic specialist, who often has to undertake delicate surgery after a long-haul flight. Farrol Kahn, a former petroleum executive turned medical writer and campaigner for airplane passenger health, is founder and director of the institute. "When I travelled for

School of Aviation Medicine. The institute has been funded with £100,000 so far and the donation of offices in Oxford from William Norton, one of the trustees. It is seeking £10 million for an ambitious research programme into air passenger health and the effect of frequent flying on the course of common diseases, and to learn how to increase productivity of business travellers.

Beecham, Bupa, Vodafone, HarperCollins and Deloitte & Touche, in addition to SmithKline, have taken out an annual corporate membership in the institute at a cost of £5,000 each. Mercantile & General has become a "life member" for £50,000.

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Farrol Kahn, a former petro-

leum executive turned medical writer and campaigner for airplane passenger health, is founder and director of the institute. "When I travelled for

lack of oxygen, which doesn't affect the healthy but can exacerbate cardiovascular conditions and blood disorders. Gas in body cavities also expands and can affect sinuses, ears, toothache and recent abdominal surgery."

The effects may be minimised by awareness and prevention — from drinking carrot juice several days before a flight to ward off hypoxia, to choosing a seat that is not at the back or near the engines, taking exercise and eating and drinking sensibly in flight.

Sir Peter sees SmithKline Beecham's involvement as vital for "strategic" purposes, since the health and comfort of employees in the air is essential for their performance on the ground.

What is interesting about this institute, if it gets off the ground, is that it has been set up by consumers rather than by the airlines or aircraft manufacturers, or others with vested interests.

Kahn, of course, gets a salary out of it ("a modest one", he insists), a free office

and a launch pad for future books on the subject — he already has two to his credit.

"The airline industry is the only one with no health executive," he says. "Passengers have an obligation to look after their own health, so airlines can be very much like ostriches, sticking their heads in the sand."

Many of the changes Kahn would like to see before 2000, when there will be an estimated 1.5 billion passengers a year globally, are small and could be made immediately, he contends. "One of the simplest things would be for planes to provide 100 per cent fresh air — as they used to. The world's healthiest airline is Concorde, which offers 100 per cent fresh air recycled every three and a half minutes. But most planes only provide 30 per cent fresh air since they can save £50,000 or so in a transatlantic trip by recycling stale air, since it takes extra fuel to provide fresh air. We must give the human factor priority in air travel, at least, instead of engineering and economics."

Banco do Brasil S.A. wishes to inform clients and correspondent banks in the United Kingdom that, with effect from 3rd June 1996, the counters of the London branch will be open to the public on London business days between the hours of 12pm and 4pm daily. Access to the Bank for purposes other than retail transactions will remain unchanged.



ANTHONY  
HARRIS

## Central banks: ever more glory, ever less power

**A**лан Greenspan is still being lionised on the days when he is not being canonised. The truth of the matter, perhaps, is that he has become marginalised.

American spelling or not, nobody puts it better than Jim Grant — he of the *Interest Rate Observer*. He is reporting on American conditions of placid prosperity: steady growth, no change in interest rates, none in contemplation.

Yet as he points out, the Federal Reserve is impersonating a swan — serene above the surface, paddling away like mad underneath. For the past few months the Federal Reserve has been keeping liquidity progressively tighter, until it has achieved this month an almost unprecedented stranglehold, with the growth of Federal Reserve Credit down to an annual rate of only 0.7 per cent.

While accepting the importance of not dispensing with experience, Mr Blair and a galaxy of Labour figures will today in the August surroundings of the Institution of Civil Engineers see the creation of a new economic environment for young people as a central priority for an incoming Labour government.

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Thus, the worrying demographics of the labour market lurk behind today's political arguments. If the Government's projections are right, and Britain's workforce starts to grow again, then economic growth, if not assured, is at least likely to maintain its trend levels. But if the pattern of the 1990s so far continues, and Britain's workforce continues to decline, then the Treasury's public concerns may spill over into the private arena.

And if the Federal Reserve actually wanted to impose a squeeze...?

The fact is that in globalised financial markets, the central banks around the world are looking more and more like something from *Walrus and the Carpenter*, who, you will remember, were strolling on the strand, and wept like anything to see such quantities of sand.

"If 40 mads with 40 mops swept it for 40 days, do you suppose" the Walrus said "that they would get it clear?" "I doubt it" said the Carpenter and shed a bitter tear. Eddie George, the Bank of England Governor, is smarting from rude remarks about the growth of M4, as may Hans Tietmeyer, his German counterpart, watching the performance of German M3.

And if Marcus Lusser over in Zurich sheds a bitter tear as he sees the Swiss

more effective? "I doubt it", he would have said. If he is right, why are the individual central bankers of Germany, France and other likely members so keen on preserving their job opportunities?

But if the central banks are now constrained to thrash about, deploying potentially high-risk policies to restore their lost potency, who does run the show? Will it be the bond markets? Ever alert, even for non-existent inflation risks, and manic-depressive with it they might well be adjudged unfit persons.

The hedge funds? Don't be ridiculous.

The correct answer must be that in a free global financial market, as in any true market, nobody is in charge. That is the glory of free markets — and also the source of their potential downfall.

Unchecked markets have the greatest potential for growth, it is true, but history shows that they also have the greatest potential for inflationary explosions, and for crashes.

So what next? Re-regulation? Good guess.

## BASF Aktiengesellschaft 67056 Ludwigshafen

Allianz Beteiligungsgesellschaft mbH, Munich/Germany has notified us in accordance with § 41 paragraph 2 of the Wertpapierhandelsgesetz (Law on Securities Trading) that its share of the voting stock of our company exceeds 10% and altogether amounts to 10.6% (as of January 1, 1995).

Ludwigshafen, May 13, 1996

BASF Aktiengesellschaft  
The Board of Executive  
Directors



## BANCO DO BRASIL

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE CHANGE OF  
OPENING HOURS

Banco do Brasil S.A. wishes to inform clients and correspondent banks in the United Kingdom that, with effect from 3rd June 1996, the counters of the London branch will be open to the public on London business days between the hours of 12pm and 4pm daily. Access to the Bank for purposes other than retail transactions will remain unchanged.

# Ionica aims to undercut BT phone bills by 20%

By OUR CITY STAFF

A NEW national telephone system was launched yesterday with a promise to cut bills by up to 20 per cent in a bid to sign one million customers by the end of the century.

Ionica plans to create several thousand new jobs by the year 2000 if it successfully takes on BT and wins a 5 per cent share of the market.

The company has so far spent about £150 million to

prepare itself for the launch to nearly two million homes in the East of England. Nigel Playford, Ionica's chief executive, estimated that an extra £200 million would give it the basic infrastructure needed to offer the service nationally.

Its system, based on radio waves rather than cables, will initially be available in East Anglia and will spread over the next two years to cover the whole of the country.

The company, based in Cambridge, said residential and small business telephone users will see their bills cut by between 15 per cent and 20 per cent and will have extra features if they switch from BT. UK and international calls will be about 15 per cent cheaper, line rental will be 20 per cent below the BT level and the cost of installing a second telephone will be 70 per cent cheaper.

But Mr Playford acknowledged that the tariffs on offer were not "too dissimilar" to those of some cable television companies, who between them are taking 50,000 customers from BT each month.

Mr Playford argued that the Ionica offer was much easier for people to understand than that of the cable companies, which varied from region to region and was often linked to television subscriptions.

One of the new features is that every line can have three separate telephone numbers, each with its own distinctive ringing tone. "It means that if you are watching football on television and the phone rings, you can stay where you are because the ringing tone will tell you if the call is for the kids," said Mr Playford.



Making waves: Nigel Playford, chief executive, at Ionica's telephone network launch

## EIT asset value has 19.7% rise

EDINBURGH Investment Trust, managed by Edinburgh Fund Managers, enjoyed a 19.7 per cent rise in net asset value per share to 382.9p in the year to March 31 (Patricia Tcham writes). However, the trust failed to outperform the FT-SE Actuaries All-Share index which was 19.8 per cent higher in the same period.

The trust has increased its year's dividend 7 per cent to 10p with a 6.75p final due on July 5.

The use of borrowings offset the poor performance of international equities and fixed-income stocks. The UK equity portfolio failed to match the FT-SE Actuaries All-Share index. The fixed-income securities portfolio was cut by £40 million and the proceeds used to repay short-term borrowings.

## Confidence at Westbury despite slip

By SIMON KENNEDY

WESTBURY, the housebuilder, suffered a 9.6 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £11.5 million for the year to February 29, including a £1.7 million exceptional reorganisation charge.

Geoffrey Maddrell, chairman, said he is confident of making "further significant progress" in the year ahead after an encouraging start, which saw underlying sales reservations rise 10 per cent.

Earnings per share rose 4 per cent to 12.7p, while the final dividend, due July 15, is up 5.2 per cent to 4.05p for a total of 6.05p. The company also announced plans to unveil a new corporate identity later this month to promote a "warmer and friendlier image".

## Newsprint costs hit The Telegraph

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

HEAVY rises in the cost of newsprint continued to hit profits at The Telegraph, the newspaper publisher, in the three months to March 31.

Pre-tax profits fell by almost a quarter to £6.6 million from £8.7 million as the group struggled absorb a 47 per cent increase in newspaper prices.

The company's profitability also suffered from a decline of 29 per cent to £4.2 million in the contribution from the company's stake in John Fairfax, the Australian media group. Hollinger, the parent company of The Telegraph, is engaged in a power struggle over Fairfax with Kerry Packer, the Australian media tycoon.

But an easing in the news-

paper price war in Britain helped the group to recover lost revenue and overall turnover rose 19 per cent to £73 million.

There was also an improvement in advertising, with total revenues rising by 5.1 per cent, although revenue from display advertising fell by 2 per cent.

The Telegraph added that newsprint prices had since stabilised and that display advertising revenues had also shown signs of improvement in the second quarter.

The company described its circulation performance since the beginning of the year as "promising".

Hollinger, which is the majority owner of The Telegraph, last month made a £760 million offer for the remaining 36 per cent of the company.

The deal, which values each Telegraph share at 50p plus a special dividend of 10p, still needs the approval of the company's shareholders.

On the stock market, shares in the company closed unchanged last night at 55.7p.



## General Accident

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Underwriting Result	(96)
Net Investment Income	136
Life Profits	20
Operating Profit before Taxation	55
Operating Earnings per Ordinary Share	6.8p
	1,029
	(14)
	125
	16
	112
	16.6p

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- Net investment earnings up 13% in original currencies.
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These results are also available on the Internet: <http://www.ga.co.uk>

## Penalties rising for bias at work

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

EMPLOYERS are now paying far more for unlawful discrimination over race and sex, a report says today.

The increase in compensation awards, identified in a study by an independent labour market analyst, is clear evidence of the effect of the removal, more than two years ago, of the statutory upper limit on such compensation after a decision by the European Court of Justice.

Industrial Relations Services (IRS) compares the level of compensation awards made by industrial tribunals in the year prior to the abolition of the upper limit in November 1993, with the level of awards in the two-year period after its abolition.

In the case of the first, the average compensation award was £2,940; in the case of the latter awards rose 31 per cent, to £3,777. If awards made in Ministry of Defence cases brought by servicewomen discharged because of pregnancy are included, average compensation rises more than three-fold, to £12,172. The average award in these cases is now down from £33,846 to £16,009.

In cases of proven racial discrimination, pre-limit awards were, on average, £2,824. After abolition, the average rose 63 per cent to £4,956. More than 10 per cent of awards are now over the old limit, ranging from £11,000 to almost £50,000.

IRS's Equal Opportunities Review says that over the two-year period, employers were ordered to pay out more than £5 million to victims of unlawful discrimination.

Lord Stevens, chairman, said: "Although many of the improvements in operating performance will only be fully reflected next year, we expect a significant proportion of savings in the current year."

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Kwelm creditors set for payout of \$220m

COOPERS & LYBRAND, administrator for five insolvent British insurance companies known collectively as Kwelm, said the group's mainly US creditors would receive a third instalment of \$220 million this summer. This will bring the total sum paid to more than \$900 million since the five were declared insolvent in 1992. Estimates of the group's ultimate liabilities have been cut by almost \$1 billion to \$9.7 billion.

The Kwelm companies comprised Kingscroft Insurance, Walbrook Insurance, El Paso Insurance, Lime Street Insurance, and Mutual Reinsurance. Kwelm had 100,000 policyholders. About 30 per cent of the policies, many insuring against pollution and asbestos liabilities, have matured.

### SBC merger go-ahead

THE Federal Reserve Board has given Swiss Bank Corporation the go-ahead to merge its US investment banking businesses from next month. The SG Warburg business and SBC Capital Markets operations, which have been operating separately since the takeover of Warburg by SBC last summer, will become SBC Warburg Inc. The merged business will employ 1,000 people in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Boston.

### UPF jumps 22%

UPF, the vehicle chassis frame manufacturer, enjoyed a 22 per cent increase in pre-tax profits in the six months to February 29 to £3.1 million from £2.6 million in 1995. Earnings per share rose to 7.8p (6.4p) and the interim dividend rises to 1.6p from 1.5p, due June 20. The company is continuing to look for growth in Europe after its purchase of Bellino last October. It has already increased its business with Mercedes Benz.

### WT Foods to raise £3m

WT FOODS, the speciality food company, is raising £3 million via a placing and open offer of new shares to finance new plant and equipment, increase marketing activity and strengthen the balance sheet for future expansion. The company is offering four new shares for every 15 held at 27p each. Existing shares rose 1p to 30p yesterday. The company forecast profit of not less than £500,000 (£1.6 million) for the year to March 31. The final dividend is 0.85p (1.75p) a share.

### United News on target

UNITED NEWS & MEDIA, created by the merger of the publisher of the *Daily Express*, *Sunday Express* and the *Group Star* with MAI, the television and financial services group, said profits and trading this financial year are "in line with expectations". Lord Stevens, chairman, said: "Although many of the improvements in operating performance will only be fully reflected next year, we expect a significant proportion of savings in the current year."

### Diploma holds dividend

DIPLOMA, the electronics and building products company, is maintaining the interim dividend at 4.5p a share after suffering a downturn in profits to £1.1 million before tax in the half year to March 31, from £13.5 million in the first half of the previous year. Earnings fell to 12.7p a share from 15.5p. The company said the decline in profits reflected margin pressures in the electronics sector and low demand for building products. Turnover was £114 million (£107 million).

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## مكتبة الأصل

Stephen Hoare reports on the plans behind the new generation of prisons being built by private companies

# Jails get the gentle touch

Women prison officers could be the key to the new generation of privately financed jails planned in response to a projected rise in the prison population.

"Women will have a calming influence on the inmates," said Richard Powell, head of Securicor Custodial. He was unveiling his company's plans for the medium-security Bridgend prison in Mid Glamorgan, South Wales, one of two private jails now under construction.

"We're going to be doing our best to reflect a more normal environment," he said. "At the moment a third of the staff we employ for prisoner escorting duties in London are women and I'd expect to see the same proportion at Bridgend."

With 20 applicants for one vacancy, Securicor has no shortage of female recruits for prison escorts. The company's decision to use women officers appears to have been vindicated by the results. After some teething problems, escapes are 85 per cent down on the level they were at when the firm took over its duties from the Metropolitan Police two years ago.

But guarding prisoners is one thing. Building and operating a new jail is an entirely

different business. It calls for a high level of management skills and a deep understanding of how prison communities operate.

Securicor and its business competitors — such as Group 4 and American security firms Wackenhut and the Correction Corporation of America — are teaming up with construction and facilities management firms to bid for lucrative pickings under the Government's Private Finance Initiative. Up to 12 new jails are needed and all are expected to go down the PFI route with 25-year operating contracts each worth £250 million for the winning consortia.

The complete package, from design through to building and operation, is where the

Home Office is looking to the private sector to make its biggest contribution. Brian Landers, Prison Service financial director, says: "Putting operations at the top of the design agenda is where the real savings can be realised and where new methods can be tried." The Government expects private operators to knock 25 per cent off the costs of running prisons through flexible working practices and management efficiencies.

Bridgend's inmates will have single cell accommodation and prisoners could be out of their cells for 14 hours a day. A large part of the day will be taken up with educational and industrial training programmes which Securicor will provide in partnership with

local colleges and the business community.

To build Bridgend, Securicor has teamed up with construction firms Costain and Skanska, facilities management consultancy W.S. Atkins and the architect Richard Seiffert. Due for completion on December 15, when the first prisoners arrive and the Home Office starts paying the private operator, the jail incorporates the findings of two recent reports into prison security. Stuart Fraser, a Costain director, says: "To all intents and purposes this is a Category A jail. We are well ahead of the game."

An important part of the design are large, multi-use buildings which minimise the need for prisoners to move between blocks and consequently the opportunities for escape. The design also avoids dog-leg corridors and blind turnings, and incorporates sight lines for CCTV monitoring. Cell furniture is what Mr Powell describes as "robust".

The Home Office — which has long employed women officers in its prisons — will have a permanent representative on site to monitor conditions and to adjudicate in disciplinary cases where prisoners could lose remission for misconduct.



Calming influence: watched by a woman warder, an inmate learns to work a lathe

## IN BRIEF

### Atkins group favoured

ATCARE consortium, led by W.S. Atkins, is the preferred bidder to design, build, finance and operate a 308-bed extension to Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester, and two other units on site. Alcare was selected by the South Manchester University Hospital NHS Trust for the Private Finance Initiative proposal, which has yet to receive Treasury approval. Other consortium members include Pall Mall Services and Alfred McAlpine Construction.

THE North Region of the British Institute of Facilities Management is holding a one-day seminar at the Old Trafford Cricket Ground, Manchester, on November 21.

The speakers include John Jack, chairman of Procord, Graham Briscoe, of Sun Alliance, and Alison Crompton, of GS Hall. Details: James Lodge on 0161-761 4663.

BLENHEIM Exhibitions & Conferences is launching FM Expo North at the G-MEX Centre, Manchester, on October 22 to 23. It is expected to attract more than 150 exhibitors and up to 3,000 visitors.

SLOTZ, the vending machine distributor, has paid £16.5 million for Terence Piper, a company based in Chessington, Surrey, that designs and assembles drinks vending machines.

SIR Paul Condon and William Taylor, the Commissioners for the Metropolitan and City of London police forces respectively, will be among the speakers at a conference on urban security, organised by Symonds Travers Morgan on June 4 at the Institution of Civil Engineers in London. Details from Sue Curry on 0171-421 2000.

A £200,000 contract for the supply and installation of a building management system to control buildings at Devonport Royal Dockyard in Plymouth has been awarded to Andover Controls by DML, the yard's operator.

## Nursing a hospital back to health

Bernard Barbuk describes how outside managers have transformed the running of a hospital group

maximum capacity. Some wards have not seen a lick of paint in years. It has never been possible to take them out of service for long enough.

Private investment has been hard to come by, says Alan Wilkes, the trust's executive head of finance. Eliminating such problems called for a complete change. In 1995 previous trust policy was reversed: tendering and outsourcing became the rule.

From April, the management, maintenance, and strategic planning of the "estate" was contracted out to Mowlem Facility Management (MFM) on a seven to ten-year fixed-fee contract. The development coincided with the merging of the RLH with the Broadgreen

psychiatric hospital, which has been managed as a separate trust.

However, despite emphasising the "open book partnership and team" basis of the relationship, it is still not clear whether the single management command structure has been established.

MFM is responsible for the "strategic management" of the combined trust's estate and its capital programme. The maintenance side of the contract is discharged via its own on-site management partner — the building services company Lorne Stewart. The 53 service personnel (inherited under TUPE, the Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment regulations) are Lorne

Stewart employees. Meanwhile, a number of other newly appointed contractors handle aspects of the estate more usually included in facilities management remits and report directly to the trust.

Thus, security is contracted to Securicor, greatly aided by a Sensormatic CCTV system. Catering, cleaning and portering is a five-year Taylor Plan contract and energy in the form of steam generation is contracted to AHS Emsstar.

The first year has been encouraging: a 20 per cent saving on building maintenance costs. Security has improved; much-needed space and staff reductions have been

generated by the rationalisation with Broadgreen four miles away; building maintenance via a help-desk and call-out system is producing a better service with fewer people.

But most of the big leaps forward remain to be taken. For example, replacing the trust's idiosyncratic Unix-based Resman computer system. To quote Ken Thomas, MFM's manager on the spot, this is "strong on input, weak on reporting, and with interfaces limited to car parking and security". Then there is the plan to improve the building management system and introduce low-energy lighting.

Critics could also point to the report-intensive nature of the new regime, with monthly, quarterly, and annual reports from Mowlem/LS and separate monthly monitoring by the trust itself.



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## THEATRE 1

Simon Gray exudes plenty of ennui in his new play for Chichester, *Simply Disconnected*



## THEATRE 2

... while in Greenwich the hardships of 1930s Germany are evoked in *What Now, Little Man?*

## THE TIMES ARTS



## MUSIC 1

An aristocrat on the ivories: the superb Polish pianist Krystian Zimerman returns to the Festival Hall



## MUSIC 2

... and another peerless soloist, the violinist Itzhak Perlman, charms and dazzles in the same venue

## CONCERTS

## Fiddler in fine fettle

WITH a pianist as partner instead of an orchestral context, Itzhak Perlman's consummate fiddle-playing blossoms in a different way, with subtler degrees of light and shade and a relaxed assurance that becomes charmingly disarming.

It almost verged on glibness at the start of Mozart's B Flat Sonata (K459), with which he began his sell-out programme with Bruno Canino, a wise chamber pianist who threatened at first to outdo the tone of his piano.

Both artists soon settled down, however, with the violinist relishing some throwaway phrases as the equivalents of verbal one-liners, and Canino instinctively matching his partner in the way sustained notes swelled

## Perlman/Canino Festival Hall

out. Perlman kept the music in front of him, even when he had no need to refer to it, but perhaps it contained markings that helped towards such firm purpose and sprightly spirit in their playing.

Mozart was followed by Fauré, whose youthful A major Sonata, written before those of both Brahms and Franck, was carried in long-breathed violin phrases that swept aside the disparaging remarks often made about it as impassioned eloquence alternated with sensitive feeling.

Both players captured the half-lights that lend a special poetry to the work without diminishing its strength of character, and with notably delicate piano figuration in the Andante movement.

The Franck Sonata itself benefited from expressive fervour in place of romantic rhetoric, the violin musing with gentle lyricism on the modestly contained subject-matter in the opening movement and deferring to the piano's leading voice. Canino met the challenges of the big-handled piano writing and its varied complexities, the violin soaring above like a skylark in full song while its deep G-string was used to generate passionate feeling.

Both players imparted a sense of cogent direction to the free fantasia of the sonata's third movement, and ended it with the most genial of poetic dialogues.

NOEL GOODWIN

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on Simon Gray's old character in a new play; plus other reviews

## Number unobtainable

Simply Disconnected  
Minerva, Chichester

In John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*, the young Jimmy Porter denounced a Bishop of Bromley who implored Christians to support the H-bomb, and in *Dejé vu* the old Jimmy Porter was even more scathing about a Bishop of Bromley who wore jeans at his enthronement and wrote a book called *An Unemployed Teenager Speaks with Christ*. The irritants had evolved in the 35 years that separated the original play from its sequel, but the malcontent had remained much the same.

Where Osborne robustly led, Simon Gray now follows, exuding relatively little of his usual waspish wit but plenty of his trademark ennui. When we first met his Simon Hench, publisher protagonist of *Otherwise Engaged*, he was listening to *Parsifal* after a day in which his wife told him she had a lover, an old school chum shot himself while muttering accusations into his answering machine, and his horrible lodger moved two horrible friends into the attic. Twenty-five years later we find him semi-retired in the country, yet rather less wholehearted when it comes to cloistering himself up with his record-player. The irritants are much the same in *Simply Disconnected* but the malcontent has evolved and Gray suggests deepened.

If we remain unconvinced by Hench's deepening, it is not the fault of the actor who again plays him. The Alan Bates of *Otherwise Engaged* brought a truculent swagger to the business of fobbing off others. The Bates of *Disconnected* is sadder as well as older. His Hench still gets people's names wrong, still fakes interest in the problems they obsessively fling at him, still irks them with his emotional aphasia. But now his senses that he is a Mardian who has been denied the compass that would give him his bearings on Earth, and at times he seems to rue it.

Especially in the first half of Richard Wilson's production, the plot does not hugely help Bates's performance or Gray's aims. Another ungrateful yob is exploiting him, though this time he is not a lodger but the football hooligan boyfriend of "the girl who does my housework". The critic who interrupted him in *Otherwise Engaged* interrupts him again — in Gawn Grainger's performance a mellower, kinder man but still more nuisance



Fine cast, flawed idea: John Michie, Gawn Grainger, Charles Kay, Rosemary Martin, Benedict Bates, Alan Bates

than friend. His schoolmaster brother also reappears, this time played by Charles Kay and facing accusations of hanky-panky in the changing-room, but still envious, resentful and demanding.

Several times, notably when a sexual adventuress called Davina is discussed, I wondered if anyone who didn't know the earlier play would be puzzled by the sequel. But it is, I suppose, clear that Hench mourns the wife whom he

betrayed and impelled to betray him, and in the second half it becomes obvious that one of his offhand affairs has borne bitter fruit. A wild, stammering young man appears waving a gun — a super performance by Benedict Bates — and turns out to be the child of a student he casually seduced in his *Otherwise Engaged* phase. Very likely he is Hench's own son.

Here is the play's problem.

*Engaged* was brash, sardonic.

Engaged was brash, sardonic.

but part of him wants to be connected.

It is a commendable change, or discovery, of heart but, impressed though I was by Alan Bates' rapt looks and awful howls, I could not quite believe it. It is too radical and an accusation I never thought I'd direct at Gray, too sentimental. The earlier play aims for less and scores. The sequel aims for more and, amusing and absorbing though it is, does not quite hit the mark.

John Allison talks to the uncompromising pianist Krystian Zimerman

## Only perfection is acceptable

After a Festival Hall appearance four years ago, Krystian Zimerman was described by Max Lopert as "a superlatively fine pianist, on the way to becoming one of the world's master recitalists". That prediction has surely been fulfilled when it comes to balancing technical perfection with playing of poise, eloquence and virtuosity, the 40-year-old Pole has few equals.

Zimerman guards this quality by limiting his performances to under 50 a year, and one of these will take place on Friday when he returns to the Festival Hall with a programme of Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert. "It's an excellent place to make music in, because of the audience. I love the people there, and I always see the same faces when I step onto the platform." But it has been two years since his last appearance in London: he cancelled a performance of the Ravel G major Concerto last season when promised rehearsal time was reduced.

"I'd invested a lot of time and money in playing this concert — I'd bought a new piano especially and adjusted it for this particular piece. I had a precise idea of what I wanted to do in the rehearsals, and when one of them was cancelled I just thought it was too risky to go ahead. It's like someone asking if you really need four wheels for your car. This is our concert life today. We are driving on three wheels and somehow manage to get along. It's become a



Zimerman: "We're driving on three wheels today"

coincidence when something is really good.

"I know the London orchestras are professional, very quick to learn. But the tendency to rehearse less means that certain interpretations are becoming the same around the world. In the Ravel concerto there are at least 25 mistakes being played by nearly every orchestra on nearly every recording. I have tremendous fun rehearsing with orchestras, so I don't see why I should cut it down. Is rehearsing so horrible that we have to get it over in very little time?"

Zimerman is scathing of the suggestion that these cutbacks reflect a shortage of money. "It's a lie. We say that we don't have the money, but we've just changed the priorities. Money has probably never had it better. For the authorities in

my home town of Basko to close the baller next year — a company that has existed for 40 years — is a terrible misunderstanding. To close cultural institutions because of saving money — these are two ideas that just don't go together, and something we shouldn't allow our politicians to get away with."

Such principled views are matched in Zimerman by a deep musical seriousness. He prefers to do his practising in his head. "Banging out something is not music. We don't develop muscles by repeating passages, we develop only transmission, and that's a purely psychological problem. If you touch even one note, it has to be a musical and artistic experience. But the need to solve interpretational problems in my head means I'm very distracted when there's Muzak around."

Restless and intellectually inquisitive, Zimerman always seems to be looking for problems to solve. His playing is powered at least in part by a tension between cerebral clarity and spontaneous emotionality: it is hardly surprising that one of his closest musical partnerships was with Bernstein. His interests range through art and literature to mathematics and computers. He speaks at least six languages, yet finds time to be a devoted husband and father. He laments the absence of the Renaissance ideal of a complete human being. But does he look back longingly to the "golden age" of pianism?

"I wouldn't call it a golden age. But people played differently — there were different expectations. The first major change came with records. I remember very well that Rubinstein said to me, 'I started to practise when I started to record — before that I played all over the place.' He thought this was a way forward, but it was also a way backwards — people lost their freedom when they invested everything in accuracy. Before records there was a completely different goal, and that was to mesmerise live audiences. Music was partly a visual thing. I can't imagine charismatic virtuosos like Paganini and Liszt making the same careers on record alone."

Zimerman's own recordings for Deutsche Grammophon reveal much of his musical personality. His repertory is wide, but as a Pole he finds Chopin, Szymborska and Lukaszewski close to his heart.

And Artur Rubinstein is central to his life. "We met after I had won the Chopin Competition in 1975. He invited me for tea, and I walked out about one week later. I kept going back, we talked about so much. When I'm trying to solve a musical problem now, I remember what he told me 15 years ago. Only now with a lot of experience am I finding deeper levels of understanding for what I thought I understood before. I wonder how many levels there are!"

• Krystian Zimerman plays at the Festival Hall on Friday (0171-960-4322).

## Survival of the smallest

HANS FALLADA's novel *Kleiner Mann, Was Nun?* was the international bestseller of 1932. It told of a little husband, his little wife and their even littler baby struggling to survive amid the raging unemployment of the last Weimar years, and ended with them on the outskirts of Berlin, still enduring, with wifey saying "perhaps 1933 will be our year".

Perhaps it was, and the child would grow up to be a 14-year-old in Hitler's final army.

The story has been staged many times and filmed, too, and this new production is by the valiant and admirable team at Greenwich Studio Theatre, making its first appearance on the main Greenwich stage. Margaret Forsyth directs an adaptation by Julian Forsyth that links the scenes, or covers the scene-changes if you look at it another way, with songs in the style we are told, of the Comedian Harmonists, Germany's most popular musical group around 1930.

The period and the predicaments of the characters are, as in previous productions, fascinating. But the little man is not just little, he's too docile.

Some of this may have been intentional on Fallada's part.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## Women at work

AS THE Orange Tree's season of 20th-century women's plays pushes on, shared concerns are emerging. In *Ellen Dryden's New Drama*, as in Susan Glaspell's *The Verge*, being a nurturer proves a tricky business. Women are pulled between professional and personal commitments, are muddling on the one hand but inflict damage on the other.

Dryden's protagonist is a teacher at a comprehensive. Vivien (Joan Moon) is trying to coax Lisa (Louise Milwood-Haigh), a difficult but bright pupil, into an appreciation of literature. She devotes time to special lessons yet is about to abandon her protégé, becoming a headmistress elsewhere.

Meanwhile, Vivien skimpers on her duties as a daughter. Paralysed down one side by a stroke, her feisty mother Grace (Barbara Cook) is being delightfully sardonic.

KATE BASSETT

## THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

## LONDON

Victoria Palace

May 29

• WINNER of the Olivier Award for Best Musical, *Oliver* stars Brian Conley as Al Jolson, star of the first "talkie" and a Broadway legend. Tickets are £25 (normally £30) for Theatre Club members, who can also meet the cast after the show over a glass of wine. Tel 0171-834 1317.

## Strand Theatre

June 3

• *Buddy* — the story of rock'n'roll legend Buddy Holly and enjoy a drink with members of the cast for only £17 (normally £25). Members can also buy top-price tickets for £16 for Monday to Thursday performances throughout May and June. Tel 0171-490 8800.

## Apollo Theatre

June 22

• ZOE WANAMAKER takes the title role in A.R. Gurney's ingenious new romantic comedy, *Sylvia*. But this is no conventional lead — this time, Wanamaker is ... a dog. Tickets £15 (normally £21.50) for Mon to Thurs performances and Sat matinees until May 18 and £16 (normally £23.50) until May 25. Tel 0171-494 5070.

## GLASGOW

Tramway

May 28-June 1

• TICKETS £5 (normally £10) for *Clawophobia*, a high-octane music and dance performance by the acclaimed Matrix Drama Theatre of St Peterburg. Tel 0141-267 3900.

## MANCHESTER

Wyndham Theatre

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SWINDON Wyndham Theatre May 27-June 1

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## ■ DESIGN

Not a lot of change out of £170 million? How the South Bank justifies its lottery bid



## ■ MUSEUMS

Nurturing a country's appetite for culture: Loyd Grossman launches his Museums Week



## ■ YOUNG ARTS

Britain's most durable show of children's art opens its doors again in Sheffield



## ■ POP

Techno with a brain: Orbital show the Albert Hall how far they have come in six years

# Does this cause deserve £170m?

London's South Bank needs a lottery facelift — but must it be such an expensive one, asks Marcus Binney

The South Bank arts centre will soon be in pole position for the largest lottery grant of all. True, the £170 million cost of the South Bank proposals is less than the £23 million required for the refurbished Royal Opera House, but the lottery's contribution is likely to be much greater — up to 75 per cent — than the £7.5 million offered to Covent Garden.

The South Bank says that the £170 million is spread across seven venues and is a vital piece of urban regeneration beside Britain's new gateway to Europe, the Channel Tunnel terminus. Some 40,000 people work in the Waterloo area, another 5,000 live there. But

the South Bank, for all its glorious music, theatre and art, remains a sterile concrete wasteland disastrously out of character and contact with the rest of London.

So where will the £170 million go? The first £11 million (calculated at 1995 prices) is to be spent on the Hayward, providing it with a second set of exhibition galleries so it no longer has to close between shows. "At present there are no proper environmental controls, and nowhere to unload works of art in safety," Jo Kennedy, the South Bank project director, says.

Another £11 million will go to the Queen Elizabeth Hall. The stage will be adapted for dance and lyric theatre as well as music, with facilities for flying scenery, side wings and an orchestra pit.

Next comes the one "bargain item" on the menu. It is a £1 million transfer of the National Poetry Library to new ground-level premises, followed by £3 million for new education spaces, including

revamping the Purcell Room. On the river front, there is to be a wholly new £12 million auditorium, highly flexible in format and accommodating between 250 and 580. "Seats can be taken out to create a theatre in the round, so both modern and older pieces can be staged as composed," Kennedy says.

The most visible element of the scheme, Sir Richard Rogers's floating glass canopy over the Hayward Gallery and Queen Elizabeth Hall, the "Crystal Palace", comes in at £20 million, surprisingly good value given its size.

The latest technology allows it to be saddle-shaped and slightly asymmetrical, a worthy and beautiful heir to the great iron and glass train sheds of the 19th century.

By far the largest single item is the £35 million refurbishment of the Festival Hall by architects Allies & Morrison. They have already spent £3 million unpicking the worst muddling of the 1970s, with reviving results.

The Festival Hall has always been acclaimed as one of the very best immediate post-war buildings in Europe, and the proposed refit is needed to bring it up to the top international technical standards demanded by conductors and orchestras. "The reverberation time is too short and needs lengthening," Kennedy says. "Players can't hear themselves or each other. We would also create a space above the stage for flying scenery, so opera and ballet can be much better accommodated."

What better advertisement could there be for music in Britain than for continental visitors to be sitting in one of the best concert halls in Europe within ten minutes of iron and glass train sheds of the 19th century.

alighting from the Channel Tunnel train, without having to wait for a bus, tube or taxi?

Next comes the least glamorous item, infrastructure in the form of £20 million for improving services to buildings, access to the Museum of the Moving Image and the National Film Theatre, removal of many of the hated concrete walkways, new staircases, escalators, landscaping and signage (lovely word).

The Arts Council's £950,000 feasibility study, "shows that 95 per cent of people say the South Bank environment is appalling and puts them off coming," Kennedy says. "Our objective is to raise numbers, from 3.3 million to 5.3 million users a year, making the whole centre more viable."

Finally, there is £6 million for "retail" shells (something you might think the retailers should provide for themselves), which will again provide increased revenue to support arts performances in the future. The South Bank is also working hard to raise its proportion of the finance and has set up the South Bank Foundation to raise funds, with the property developer Eliott Bernerd as chairman.

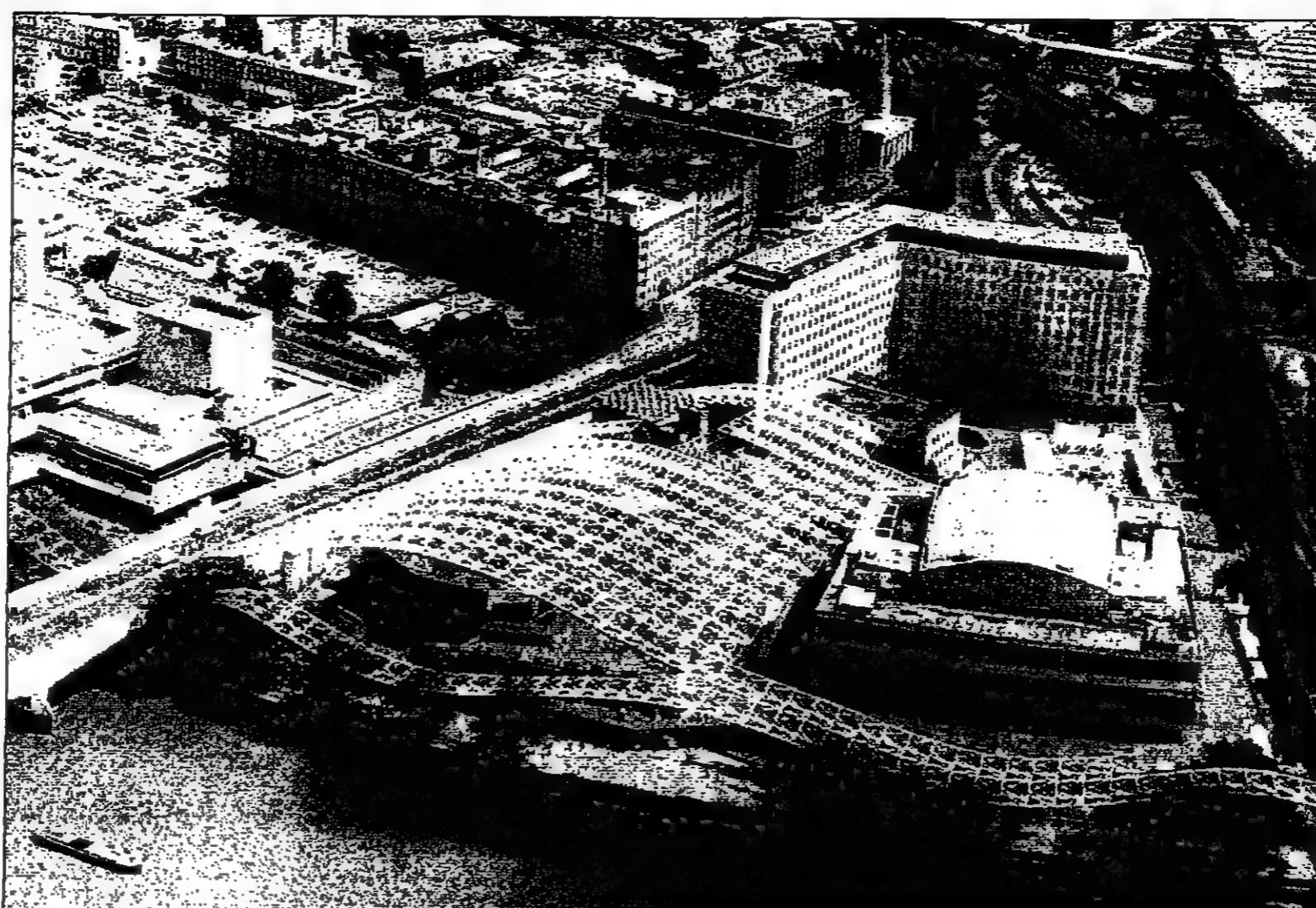
All these items add up to £122 million. The remaining £48 million is nothing more or less than a frightening provision for inflation. Actual building costs are not forecast to

rise more than 5 per cent a year, so the larger part of the inflation provision will go towards meeting what can be termed the "Eighties" factor. This is a firm belief on the part of everyone on the lottery roller-coaster that, as the millennium approaches, and more and more lottery projects compete with each other, building prices will go mad, as they did in the 1980s.

Here I pull the communication card. The use of lottery money to fuel a new bout of boom-and-bust should be unthinkable. If construction companies know in advance that there are huge budget provisions for millennium fever, they will price accordingly.

The Government must tell the lottery distributors (and, if the Government does not, the media will) that only standard building cost inflation will be tolerated. If contractors put in tenders above this, projects should be cancelled or postponed. With major European building companies competing, it must be possible to get reasonable prices.

The second great question that needs to be asked about the whole South Bank project is just who is in charge. A scheme this size needs a leader of towering energy and determination — over and above the project director — to get it built on time and on budget. There is none in sight. Without



A snip at £20 million? The floating glass canopy of Richard Rogers's "Crystal Palace" is only one of the proposals for the new-look South Bank

## From cradle to Graves

Jenny McClean joins the Sheffield parents learning what it means to be young at art

some children chose to go their own way.

Eleven-year-old Steven Sylvester's self-portrait expresses "my moving emotions: I was feeling angry at the time". Alex Goodall, nine, painted a rhythmic old sewing machine, while 14-year-old Sarah Davis carved a house out of a block of plaster, apparently still life until you spot the street scene etched on the front.

The after-effects of movement and the release of tension are vividly expressed in a large purple papier-mâché model by Dean Rowbotham, 11, entitled *Relaxation*. And someone will want to keep as a family heirloom nine-year-old Emily Waterhouse's two small sculptures of *My Cousin Alice* learning to crawl.

At three-and-a-half, Emma Greenlees was too young to exhibit, but that did not stop her copying some of the work, such as a moving butterfly sculpture, into her sketchbook.

Contributions have been grouped according to subject — the animal section is characteristically well-stocked. "Children will always want to draw animals, but the idea here is to capture a bird's flight or a caterpillar wriggling along," Sillar says.

Earlier this year she staged a three-month exhibition of paintings, photographs, textiles and sculpture illustrating how artists such as Hockney and Frink have expressed movement. Some of the material was taken from the school lending service (a similar public lending service offers 1,400 works) but, naturally enough,

Loyd Grossman tells Simon Tait why he has devised Museums Week

## Recipe to draw the crowds



Grossman: our museums rank with the world's best

When the financial going gets tough, many a museum gets going, calling on a sympathetic celebrity to lend his or her name to an appeal, and their media-friendly face to a campaign. Susan Hampshire and Michael Palin can usually be relied on to come through with support, while the late Paul Eddington exasperated his agent by giving more time than he could really afford to helping out his local Bristol museums.

But Loyd Grossman is another matter. The television cook and genial gazer through the keyholes of other celebs is running a campaign for *all* of Britain's museums. Museums Week, devised and led by Grossman, began last year as a quirky Radio 2 event, but is launched again tomorrow with a flood of television and radio interviews. The week itself begins on Saturday — International Museums Day.

The same day also sees the launch of *MAG*, a glossy magazine dedicated to museums and galleries, to which Grossman is contributing a restaurant review column.

He has got 350 MPs holding surgeries in their local museums — Austin Mitchell is driving to the Grimsby National Fishing Heritage Centre in a 1950s Austin — and he has got more than 650 museums, from the Corrigal Farm Museum in Orkney to the Porthcurno Museum of Submarine Telegraphy in Cornwall, to do something special to attract new visitors. And *Radio Times* has a special two-for-one voucher for the week.

But why Grossman? Chopping carrots and watching television one Friday evening 18 months ago, he caught Graham Greene, then chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission, on the local news pleading for the future of museums under local government reorganisation (councils have no obligation to look after museums).

"I was shocked to think that so many museums were being threatened and no one other than museum professionals seemed to be interested or concerned about it," Grossman said. So he rang Greene,

lifeboat museum opening in Chatham; Gillingham Museum in Dorset where the volunteer curator has sold his local ironmongery so he can become full-time director; and the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry's new virtual reality exhibit.

But it is not enough. "We want the lottery to join us to help to pay for some of the core functions that are being eroded," Grossman says. "There's suddenly this idea that museum directors should behave like businessmen. I would love to see the museum community escape from the constant atmosphere of crisis management and concentrate on the things they have been trained to do, like the stewardship of important treasures, like educating people."

"What other institution has so much that appeals to so many different people? I hope that for the millennium the museums will make the idea of a learning society more of a reality. For Museums Week, I want to get across what one of the committee calls the Ladybird Book Message: Museums are Good."

This is deadly serious music, with deeply human emotions stirring beneath its glacial techno surface. Semi-improvising each tune from hundreds of pre-programmed sequences, the Hartnolls retain an element of raw spontaneity lacking in most electronic acts. They also create space for haunting, atmospheric pieces like *The Box*, the duo's recent hit single, whose stark beats and sampled dulcimer refrain recall classic film scenes by John Barry and Lalo Schifrin.

The emotional charge, coupled with their willingness to embrace classical and cinematic influences, is undoubtedly the key to Orbital's appeal outside dance circles. And yet crafted subtlety takes a back seat, with booming percussion accented over melody, and strobe lights and smoke machines coaxing this mostly youthful crowd to their feet for almost the entire two-hour performance.

So here, it seems, is Orbital's secret. For all their anti-star principles and anti-rock rhetoric, their grasp of showmanship is second to none. They remain unafraid to fall back on crowd-pleasing tricks like multimedia stage effects, or dropping droll Belinda Carlisle samples into the warm electronic contours of *Halcyon*, just as they did at Glastonbury.

Ultimately, Orbital play progressive music with a pop heart. And for an Albert Hall packed with partisan revelers, there's nothing alien about that.

STEPHEN DALTON

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Jennai Cox previews a three-part television series which clearly demonstrates why secretaries cannot be typecast

# Secret world of secretaries

**M**iss Moneypenny aside, it is almost impossible to name a well-known secretary. For a job that has transformed the lives of thousands of women, the position has had a very low profile.

A three-part television series exploring the evolution of the secretary and her relationship with the boss hopes to change that. *I'll Just See If He's In*, starting next Tuesday, will shock, surprise many and inform those whose idea of a secretary is simply an efficient typist.

Emma Willis, the main producer, who spent six months making the first two 40-minute programmes of the series, describes the story that emerges as a "double-edged sword" for women. "The job gives them huge opportunities, but is also a role which has proved very hard for some to get out of," she says. Ms Willis set out to make a series which did not shy away from that contradiction.

When the idea was put forward by two BBC secretaries last year, Ms Willis thought it would be a doddle. "Making the series was extremely demanding. I have never had to speak to so many

people in all my life," she says. "I felt a great responsibility because hardly anything has been done about this subject before. I wanted to do it justice and certainly did not want to offend anyone."

Finding archive material, used in particular for the second programme on the history of the secretary, was one of the most difficult aspects of the research. "It is such an obvious subject and I thought there would be loads of material," Ms Willis says. "We came across lots of documentary footage on miners and other pieces of social history, but nothing on secretaries. I'm sure if it had been a man's job there wouldn't have been a problem."

The world of secretaries remains a relatively difficult one to penetrate, Ms Willis discovered. Dozens of high-profile PAs who lead extremely interesting lives were not prepared to come out into the limelight. "Their work is their livelihood and they are used to being in the background. It was very hard to get people to talk," she says.

Three secretaries and their bosses eventually agreed to participate in the first programme on their relationships. Each pair are on

different working terms; the first treat each other as equals; the second boss employs a secretary to boss her around; and the third pair have a traditional relationship, with the secretary still addressing her boss as Mr Smith.

The first programme goes some way to explain why the male PA has never caught on and why secretaries could never be replaced by machines. Ms Willis says: "People talked to me about the march of technology asking: 'Whether the secretary? It is all rubbish because the essential relationship has not changed: it's still about human partnerships."

She was struck most by the wide range of people who become secretaries and how much the job varies. "We couldn't make any sort of generalisation as the job seems to have scope up almost every kind of woman," she says. "There is no equal type of work for men."

This was largely, she discovered while researching its history, because of the narrow range of options for women. The invention of the typewriter turned a once prestigious male-dominated job into one of machine operator and therefore one which was hand-

ed over to women. By about 1920 the role had been dramatically transformed and companies were able to employ quality women at relatively low wages.

Being a secretary, however, meant something special to the older generation. "They used to train for three years, and they still have the words personal assistant because they think it is pretentious," Ms Willis says. "But now you hardly hear the word secre-

tary, it has lost its meaning." Although she accepts that the secretarial role is still regarded as a subordinate one, she thinks there is nothing wrong with its status. "It is the perception that is the problem," she says. "The fact that the job is so different from person to person and company to company is quite destructive; it is hard to make a profession of something that is so varied."

The third programme focus-



Alice Dunhill

Blue-ribbon ladies: Joyce Sarling, Marion Aley-Parker and Audrey Martin — three secretaries who star in the BBC series *I'll Just See If He's In*

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The third programme focus-

es on five women who wanted a profession and — unlike the men they replaced — had to break out of the secretarial mould to have one. Women, such as Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker of the House of Commons, who started as secretaries, had to fight for something with greater recognition.

Some have fond memories of their time as secretaries while others hated it; Sian Brady, who set up a computer cabling installation company, now refuses to employ any secretaries.

Ms Willis adds: "I wanted to bring them to the fore and say to people 'Look this is interesting because this is how women are perceived at work and to a great extent, in society as well.' She thinks this is illustrated by the fact that it has taken women 150 years to bring the secretarial role back to where it started when done by men, as a job with status and prospects.

• *I'll Just See If He's In* begins on BBC2 on May 21 at 9.45pm.

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**City Receptionist**  
to £15,500 & benefits

Highly successful investment company with financial office seeks a professional and immediately presented receptionist to create that all important first impression. Duties include meeting and greeting visitors, answering the busy switchboard, booking lunches and helping with overflow typing. Skills: 30wpm, typographic WP experience. Hours 8.45am - 5.45pm. Please call Vanessa Marshall on 0171-390 7000.

Crone Corkill  
Recruitment Consultants

**Senior PA**  
12 month contract  
to £24,000 & bonus

International reinsurance company requires a self-motivated and highly organized PA to support the Chief Operating Officer on a contract beginning in July. Acting as his right hand assistant you will provide full secretarial and administrative support, liaise with senior management internationally and oversee the smooth running of the office. Senior level experience within a financial or blue-chip organisation is essential. Skills: 30/60, WP experience. Please call Vanessa Marshall on 0171-390 7000.

Crone Corkill  
Recruitment Consultants

**A Superb Opportunity**  
£18,000 + benefits  
Age 22-30

This is a great position for an enthusiastic secretary who would enjoy being a linkperson for a lively team. Working for a European Bank, you will be providing secretarial support to two Directors and in addition have a number of your own projects to co-ordinate including wine tasting evenings, rugby days and charity Go-Karting! You should be on the ball, enjoy using your own initiative and capable of liaising at senior level. Skills: 50wpm typing and word for windows. Please call Amanda Crosson on 0171-390 7000.

Crone Corkill  
Recruitment Consultants

**RECEPTIONISTS  
TAKE YOUR PICK**  
of bookings either on a long term on-going  
basis or shorter term. You will need to be  
immaculately presented and have reception  
switchboard experience. For an immediate  
interview please call Rachael Beard at  
Tate

**JOBS WITH A DIFFERENCE...**  
to £30,000

25K+ - OUTSTANDING PA/OFFICE MANAGER - to run this busy, dynamic international office. Scope for involvement, responsibility, decision making. Must be bright, proactive, enjoy a challenge, and capable of taking on a demanding, busy role. Age 24-45.

17.5K+ - ONLY 30% SECRETARIAL! Property Management Co in London for a diplomatic/ambitious PA who is streetwise, persuasive and thrives on problem solving/juggling priorities. Age 20-35, 7-10 yrs exp.

16.5K+ - PUBLICITY/PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Career move for bright PA with 6/8 yrs to join this international organisation. Must enjoy using initiative and writing own press releases.

15K+ - 6 MONTHS EXPERIENCE? - Graduate calibre candidate to work as Marketing Assist in this well known co. Prof. Powerpoint, Excel, Word for Windows. Career prospects.

**KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES**

0171 235 8427

**INVESTMENT BANKING**

£16,000 to £22,000 + Package

Our client is searching for two flexible Team Secretaries to work in a lively demanding environment. You will need a strong, confident personality, excellent telephone manner, and first class communication skills. Minimum typing 65 wpm and in-depth knowledge powerpoint essential.

Please ring MITCHELL YOUNG ASSOCIATES  
0171 583 3055 Rec Cons.

**AMBITIOUS PA**

£19.1K+ - An bank based (mtg, bonus, ot, gym, etc.) A young, highly energetic, totally professional and well organised Secretary is urgently needed to assist the head of Investment Banking at a well known Int. Investment bank. Must be capable of taking lots of responsibility, have really confident communication skills and be a team player. There is definitely scope to develop this role. A high level of commitment, an intelligent approach and total professionalism essential. Call Emily Aldrich

Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8996 Aldrich & Co Ltd RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

**CORPORATE FINANCE SECRETARY TO MD**

£30,000 Package

Senior PA required for busy executive. In this challenging role you will need 60 wpm typing/MS Office experience and proven secretarial qualifications. You will also have excellent communication skills, organisational, memory and enthusiasm. Banking/Professional experience essential.

Call Mitchell Young Associates  
Rec. Cons. 0171 588 3055.

**Perfection Reception PR**

This prestigious PR firm in SW1 is looking for a young, bright all-rounder to assist and great clients, answer the phone, manage bookings, etc. If you are looking for a start in a creative environment and have basic typing (40wpm) call now. Salary negotiable.

JOYCE GRIFFITHS  
PARTNERSHIP  
0171 588 5897  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

**PA TO MD**

West End based property company active in the UK and Europe.

The Managing Director is seeking a high calibre personal assistant for a varied and challenging role, dealing with private as well as business matters.

Excellent secretarial skills, good telephone manner, and willingness to work long hours are essential. The successful candidate will remain calm under pressure and have the experience to handle a wide range of issues at a senior level.

Salary in the region of £22,000 per annum subject to qualifications and experience.

Please reply to Sandy Wootton, 63 Chancery Square, London SW1A 1AA. Tel: 0171 730 7730, or fax CV on 0171 396 0106.

We have recently won a major new contract with a blue-chip city firm and require high calibre staff to work at all levels, from Partner's PA to Group Secretary.

All positions require dynamic, intelligent and quality oriented professionals with strong secretarial skills and previous experience of working in a demanding environment.

In return, your expertise and commitment will be rewarded with an excellent salary and full benefits package. For more information, please call or write to Emma Hoddell, Contract Supervisor, Manpower PLC, 4-8 Ludgate Circus, London EC4M 7LD. Tel: 0171 353 7884. Fax: 0171 353 2003.

**MANPOWER**  
There's more for you

**PA-KNIGHTSBRIDGE**

For property company, commercially astute, require a highly motivated and organised PA with eye for detail, flexibility, excellent communication skills to assist teams of five. Thorough knowledge of W&W & Excel essential and legal background on banking, etc. 60wpm/MS Word/Powerpoint 214-230 according to experience. Please 0171-377 8800, 8111. Ref VMS or fax CV 0171-377 8800.

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO MD.**

A vacancy has arisen for a full time Personal Assistant/Secretary to the M.D. of an international recruitment company located in Port Royal, NW10. The applicant will need to be highly motivated and self confident with a minimum of 3 years experience at a Director level. Scope of work will involve Personnel and Marketing for this multi-national organisation. Applicants will need diplomatic tact, discretion and the ability to compile responses to correspondence on behalf of the M.D. Excellent shorthand and keyboard skills are essential. Salary and packages are negotiable but will be commensurate with this senior level appointment.

CVs to GHR on fax 0171 382 0221 or tel 0171 382 0220.

**SECRETARY**

for busy Construction Surveyors practice in E2. To work and run a small office with two partners and a Consultant. Excellent secretarial and organisational skills with good telephone manner and ability to work with clients. W&W, ELO, Word, MS, Powerpoint, etc. 60wpm/MS Word/Powerpoint 214-230 according to experience. Please 0171-377 8800, 8111. Ref VMS or fax CV 0171-377 8800.

**PROFICIENT SECRETARY**

working for a busy and dynamic estate agency. W/P 3, MS Word skills required. Must be able to type 60wpm. Own mobile phone with a personal telephone number. £16,000.00. 24hr/7 days a week. 24hr/7 days a week. CV with covering letter.

James Wilson, 15 Cobweb Mews, St. John's Wood, London NW8 4NY. No agencies.

**EXPERIENCED PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

We are a small friendly City company needing a new team member as PA to one of the partners. You will be able to use all your initiative in planning travel and meetings, and generally keeping things running smoothly.

Shorthand and accuracy essential. A levels desirable, degree an advantage. Word for Windows important, other Windows applications useful. Five weeks holiday and excellent salary

Tel: 0171 283 1555 Fax: 0171 626 6802  
GALE ASSOC

**PA CHALLENGE**  
c£20K + BENS

For highly successful Int Co of Award Winning Software. Working for Client Exec & MD, also running Reception area. Graduate/A level with exp of 10/12 years, with Windows (50wpm) and organisational skills and able to type 65wpm. No two days the same, with CE getting around, dealing with clients, hectic diary and confidential work. Definitely a challenge Tel 439 1188 Rec Cons.

PA SECRETARY ST JAMES

For further details to interview contact 0171 283 1555 or 0171 626 6802  
GALE ASSOC

CREME DE LA CREAM  
RICH PICKING  
Angela Morris  
0171 814 0801  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES c22K + BENS**

Superb 1:1 opportunity for a polished and professional secretary to work at executive level with lots of responsibility and senior level liaison. This role will appeal to individuals with a desire to work in a professional environment and have excellent secretarial skills (WP 3.1, Excel or Lotus + shorthand useful). Ideal candidates will be assertive, confident and team spirited and as if that's not all, we're also asking for a sense of humour!

PLEASE CALL EMMA DALE, MONIQUE COOKE OR  
PORTIA LINNEHAM for immediate interview.

For temporary assignments in the City please call  
Jan Williams.

A division of Graduate Appointments.

**ALBANY  
APPOINTMENTS**

**NEWSPAPER - FINANCE PA**  
£20K  
Genuine involvement is ensured by Financial Controller of major Newspaper House who seeks experienced PA/Assistant. An up-to-date & internet for financial information is essential. Good shorthand and 60wpm. Good packages for the right applicant.

Kennedy Associates Ltd, 2233, Fax on 0171-224 4444 (Tel 0171-224 2222)

**SECRETARY TO THE  
CHAIRMAN**  
£19,000 pa + bonus

The Chairman of the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS) requires a first class bright, experienced Secretary for five months to cover maternity leave. Fast accurate typing (70wpm), shorthand and spreadsheets (Excel) an advantage. Own projects. Possibility of transferring to permanent position in the dynamic expanding educational travel organisation. Salary £1,250 plus completion bonus of £1,500.

Write, enclosing CV, to Mary Eaton, AIFS, 37 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR (No agencies)

**CITY BANKING/FINANCE**

**MARKETING ASSISTANT (ADV PAGEMAKER)** £24,000  
BEIJING GERMAN PA (LT)  
HR SEC/ASSIST (LT/TEMP) EXC RATE  
JNR SEC (50 WPM) TRADING FLOOR  
JNR SEC INT CITY TRADING DESK  
JNR/2ND JOBBER SW/ FINANCE CO  
DTP/SEC TO ECONOMIST  
GERMAN SPK SEC C/F  
RESEARCH SEC  
TRADING ASSIST/SEC TREASURY  
DTP OF RESEARCH  
PAGEMAKER, MS OFFICE, ILLUSTRATOR £19,000

ALL ROLES REQ GOOD SEC/SYSTEMS SKILLS AND PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE ESSENTIALLY WITHIN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR.

Tel: 0171 255 1201 Fax: 0171 621 0985

**FORUM HOUSE**  
15-21 LIME STREET LONDON EC3M 7AP  
**MONUMENT**  
Personnel Consultants

**WE HAVE 100's OF CABIN CREW VACANCIES WITH 12 MAJOR AIRLINES - WITH OUR HELP YOU COULD BE FLYING VERY SOON -**

If you are serious about a flying career we can help - you could join the 100's of successful people we've already helped to become cabin crew over the last 8 years with over 25 airlines. We offer:

- LICENSED CABIN CREW PLACEMENT SERVICE
- ONE DAY PRE-AIRLINE TRAINING AT 6 UK VENUES
- AVIATION EDUCATIONAL BOOKS/ASSESSMENTS

To succeed you will need the VERY BEST help; with the 100's of vacancies we have our experience and success can help you NOW - call us TODAY and tomorrow you could be reaching for the skies!

A.R.C. HOUSE, GROVE PARK COURT, HARROGATE HG1 4DP. TEL: 01423 536904 (MULTILINE) FAX: 01423 536905

Age 30-50 years. Please apply in writing, enclosing C.V. to Box No. 5974

**CABIN CREW**  
WANTED

AIRLINE RECRUITMENT & TRAINING COMPANY

The successful applicant for this position will have involvement on the business side on the highest level and responsibility for all matters. Duties will include extensive diary management, travel and meeting arrangements. Generally requires a varied and very busy life.

Based in the London executive centre of this company, a good team spirit, sense of humour, excellent secretarial skills (100/60/Windows)

and flexibility are required.

Please ring MITCHELL YOUNG ASSOCIATES 0171 588 3055 Rec Cons.

**PA/SECRETARY TO BOARD DIRECTOR  
BLUE CHIP COMPANY**

The successful applicant for this position will have involvement on the business side on the highest level and responsibility for all matters. Duties will include extensive diary management, travel and meeting

arrangements. Generally requires a varied and very busy life.

Based in the London executive centre of this company, a good team

spirit, sense of humour, excellent secretarial skills (100/60/Windows)

and flexibility are required.

Please ring MITCHELL YOUNG ASSOCIATES 0171 588 3055 Rec Cons.

**INVESTMENT BANKING**

£16,000 to £22,000 + Package

Our client is searching for two flexible Team Secretaries to work in a lively demanding environment. You will need a

strong, confident personality, excellent telephone manner, and first class communication skills. Minimum typing 65 wpm and in-depth knowledge powerpoint essential.

Please ring MITCHELL YOUNG ASSOCIATES 0171 588 3055 Rec Cons.

**INTERNATIONAL FINANCE  
CONSULTANCY**

require a self motivated well presented responsible PA age 25-35 for Project Finance Manager. Must have strong administration skills and W/P skills, knowledge of Powerpoint would be an advantage. Attractive package + Private Medical Insurance.

Please send CV with hand written covering letter to:

Rachel Milne, Masters House, 107 Hammersmith Road, London, W14 0QH

Tel: 0171 283 1555 Fax: 0171 626 6802

GALE ASSOC

**EXPERIENCED PERSONAL  
ASSISTANT**

We are a small friendly City company needing a new team member as PA to one of the partners. You will be able to use all your

initiative in planning travel and meetings, and generally keeping things running smoothly.

Shorthand and accuracy essential

A levels desirable, degree an advantage

Word for Windows important, other Windows applications useful

Five weeks holiday and excellent salary

**PA CHALLENG**

## CREME DE LA CREME

## RICH PICKINGS

Is finding a rewarding, well paid temp job, like finding a needle in a haystack? Do you want to earn up to £10 per hour and take your pick from a crop of temp assignments ranging from International Investment banks to corporate PR agencies. If you have 55wpm and solid experience using two or more current word processing packages, then please call

Angela Mortimer

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.  
All applicants are positively welcome.

## PA/SECRETARY

Up to £32K

An internationally renowned Entrepreneur with an innovative approach to Property Development, has an exciting opportunity for a computer literate, mature Senior Secretary. This West End based position requires a bright, highly competent, experienced and intelligent PA/Secretary to participate in the day to day running of a busy office. The successful applicant will have held a Chairman level position and will have experience in Property Development and/or Legal environments. Moreover, you must have stamina, common sense and motivation to work for this prestigious business person. Advanced word processing skills required. Skills: 80wpm typing and WPS. Please call

Angela Mortimer

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.  
All applicants are positively welcome.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

£25K

The Chief Executive of a leading communications consultancy is looking for an outstanding PA to work with him during a period of extensive international growth. As he is usually travelling, this is a job for a PA used to working on her own initiative who can draft and sign off correspondence, represent him to clients and research and attend meetings. You will be working on potential acquisitions, developing overseas affiliates and subsidiaries as well as marketing new clients and devising future strategies for existing ones. Strong interpersonal skills are essential, languages - especially German and French and willingness to travel within the UK would be very useful. Skills: 100wpm. Please call

Angela Mortimer

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.  
All applicants are positively welcome.

## TRADING FLOOR

£22K plus banking benefits

Our client, a large European Investment bank, is looking for a dynamic secretary who will rise to the challenge of working on a busy trading floor. With at least 18 months experience, preferably in a financial environment, you will not be phased by the pace and volume of work that you will encounter. You will provide comprehensive administrative support to a sales desk and act as a PA to two directors. Resilience, humour and initiative combined with expert secretarial and IT skills will ensure your success in this position. An immediate start would be welcomed. Please call

Angela Mortimer

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.  
All applicants are positively welcome.

## TRADING PLACES

An exciting opportunity exists within an International Trading Company. Working with a team of highly motivated, dynamic people you should enjoy a fast moving, busy environment and be flexible and outgoing. The position requires a knowledge of Charter Parties or some shipping experience as well as good administrative and organisational skills. If you are proficient in Word, Perfect for Windows and have good secretarial skills please call

Angela Mortimer

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.  
All applicants are positively welcome.

## RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

**SALARY + BENS + COMMISSION + CAR**  
Due to the enormous success of our growing secretarial division, an opening has arisen for a Recruitment Consultant with a minimum of eighteen months relevant experience. This position will compliment an established team based in our prestigious City Office. The ideal candidate will be aged 24-30, assertive, professional and dynamic.

Please contact Lindsey Morgan.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,  
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP  
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

JOANNA LINDSEY  
Morgan  
secretaries

## PERSONNEL PA

**Up to £24,000 + MS + BENS**  
A polished PA with either a personnel or banking background is urgently sought by this prestigious Investment Bank. The position will incorporate extensive telephone liaison, diary management and admin duties. The ideal candidate will be aged 25-33 with a solid work history and 100 wpm shorthand.

Please contact Melinda Marks.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,  
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP  
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

JONATHAN WREN  
Morgan  
secretaries

## WEST END PA/ SECRETARIES X 5

**Up to £20,000 + MS + BENS**  
One of London's leading Investment Banks has several exciting openings for professional well educated secretaries (minimum 5 GCSE's). The positions range from Junior Secretarial roles through to senior Director level opportunities in Legal, Research and Investment Banking.

Please contact Melinda Marks.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,  
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP  
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

JONATHAN WREN  
Morgan  
secretaries

## SECOND JOBBERS X 2

**Up to £18,000 + MS + BENS**  
Two immediate openings exist for secretaries with banking experience to work within two of London's leading banks. The first position is to work on the trading floor and will incorporate extensive admin duties and the second position is to work within Equity Capital markets and necessitates strong PowerPoint skills.

Please contact Melinda Marks.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,  
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP  
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

JONATHAN WREN  
Morgan  
secretaries

## CORPORATE FINANCE PA

**Up to £25,000 PACKAGE**  
A leading Investment Bank has an immediate opening for a PA/Secretary with a banking background to work for two senior Directors. The position will incorporate extensive administrative responsibilities of diary management and travel co-ordination. The ideal candidate will be aged 25-33 with a solid work history.

Please contact Melinda Marks.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,  
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP  
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

JONATHAN WREN  
Morgan  
secretaries

## SECRETARY/PA

In 2 Directors

Outplacement Consultants,  
friendly office WC1. Audio/  
WPS. Flexible hours.

Tel: 0171 259 6999

V. Jobs  
BLAUCHAMP BUREAU

SECRETARY  
LONDON W1

Audio secretary to work for  
two friendly partners. Good  
telephone manner essential.  
Wordperfect 5.1 salary  
£15,000 per annum.  
0171 486 0490.

SECRETARY/  
RECEPTIONIST

A competent and presentable  
person required for busy  
professional office colleagues to  
"Hermes". Salary negotiable.

Apply with CV to Andrew Bishop  
0171 226 0022.  
Fax: 0171 226 4191

## HOBSTONES

CAREER PA  
Exceptional Salary

Successful & rapidly expanding International company is seeking an outstanding PA with solid experience gained at the highest level ideally in a small company environment. Probably in your early 30's with a degree and a good business mind, you will use your diplomacy, organisational and motivational skills to act as an executive assistant to the MD who will involve you in every aspect of his work. If you are numerate, confident and are looking for your own projects and responsibility this is the challenge you are waiting for. Sound knowledge of Microsoft Office essential.

Please call Sharon on 0171 437 4032  
for more details.

RECRUITMENT

## HOBSTONES

PA in Training/Media  
to £18,500 + bens

If you're looking for your first one to one role at Director level in a fun and friendly environment look no further! One of London's top Publishing and Training companies require a PA for a Group Director and you'll be collecting presentations, liaising with senior people and holding the fort in his absence. You'll need to be intelligent with professional and discreet manner. Word for Windows and 55wpm typing are a must. Call Caroline Galen in the West End.

PA to Managing Director  
£20,000

This successful worldwide shipping company seeks an experienced and enthusiastic PA, capable of handling correspondence, arranging extensive travel itineraries, diary management and acting as a company ambassador. Experience within the shipping industry would be beneficial but it is not essential. With a minimum of 2 years experience at senior PA level, plus shorthand 90wpm min and typing 65wpm, this role will utilise your energy and organisational skills offering you the ability to become an integral part of the company. Call Shirley Hawkins in the West End.

West End: 0171 437 6032  
Victory House, 95-101 Regent Street, London W1 7HS

RECRUITMENT

## INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS SECRETARY

The best of the international business market. An experienced secretary to work in fast busy West End office. Proficient at WPS, 60 wpm and easy typing, general admin skills and a good sense of humor. Contact: Caroline Waller. Tel: 0171 409 8777.

AND CONSIDER YOURSELF A HOBSTONES TEMP!

RECRUITMENT

## VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

## BENEFITS GALORE!

Our client is prestigious, progressive, has a flat hierarchy and would like to invest in you. Paid overtime, PPR, STI, gym, health, pension, life assurance... the list is endless! They are looking for a young, proactive, switched on Secretary to work for two delightful Associate Partners and their team. You will arrange travel, prepare presentations and liaise extensively with clients and colleagues as you get fully involved in their work. Powerpoint prof., good WPS and 55wpm.

## £20k package

INVEST YOURSELF!

Working for two charming Directors, this is an opportunity for a Secretary with shorthand to get truly involved in this fascinating area of banking, which deals with every type of company, from food to fashion to finance. Working as part of this friendly team, you will be responsible for managing their diaries, organising and preparing presentations, travel and meetings, dealing with correspondence and liaising in confidence with their clients on specific projects.

## £20,000 + Bens

Working for two charming Directors, this is an opportunity for a Secretary with shorthand to get truly involved in this fascinating area of banking, which deals with every type of company, from food to fashion to finance. Working as part of this friendly team, you will be responsible for managing their diaries, organising and preparing presentations, travel and meetings, dealing with correspondence and liaising in confidence with their clients on specific projects.

## CITY SLICKER

An international environment, plenty of variety and lots of contact overseas is what this job has to offer... This prestigious Equity Research Department needs a first class Assistant with excellent secretarial skills to assist the analysts with their admin and secretarial requirements using Word for Windows, graphics and spreadsheets. If you are a proactive individual with strong organisational skills and a real eye for detail, please call us to find out more.

## £18-20k + Bkg Bens (c£25k Pkg)

0171 225 1888

## Judy Farquharson Ltd.

## PA/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR TO DIRECTOR

To assist in the smooth running of central London prominent food business, working for high-lying professional director. Organisational and administrative skills required. Good computer skills. Basic travel and some evenings. £12,000.

47 New Bond St, London W1Y 9HA  
TEL: 0171 493 8824 FAX: 0171 493 7161

## JFL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## EXECUTIVE RECEPTIONIST

£18k

Excellent opportunity to join leading outplacement consultancy in SW1. Must have min 4 yrs front line exp. Call Nicola Milner on 0171 499 8112 or Fax your CV on 0171 499 8115 (Recruit Agy)

## Banking Secs

## £20-24,000

Banking experience preferred but not essential for a variety of vacancies in a leading investment house. These include Trading Floor, IT, Audit & Compliance, Investment, Corporate Services, Legal & Personnel. All require good secretarial skills and a steady track record. All banking benefits offered.

Call: 0171 492 2868

## HERITAGE RECRUITMENT

## Travel

## £18,000

The Managing Director of this expanding corporate and holiday travel co. needs a switched on PA who has bags of initiative as well as a creative streak to put together corporate presentations and organise his frenetic life. He is a very sociable soul and a real role for a striking violin. Good perks.

Call: 0171 492 2868

## HERITAGE RECRUITMENT

## CHAIRMAN'S PA £23,000 + bonuses

Introducing our non-permanent role assisting Chairman with wide ranging interests including sport, banking and property. Duties include senior level liaison, 60 wpm, WPS and audio essential, sten. needed. Fax required.

OFFICE MANAGER/PA £20,000

Growing Docklands co. needs a self-motivated all-rounder to set up systems, support staff, organise meetings and produce management reports. Good use of computer skills and ability to work to own initiative.

Russell Chambers, The Plaza, Covent Garden, London

Tel: 0171 449 2833

## MUSIC PUBLISHERS IN SMALL BUSY SW1 OFFICE

## SECRETARY

## £18,000 + bonuses

needs energetic, friendly secretary. Minimum 50wpm typing. Willingness to learn.

£12,000 neg. + bonuses.

James and Mandy Chase

0171 235 9046 (no agency)

## ALL Box number replies should be addressed to:

Box No. —

C/o The Times

P.O. Box 5523, Virgilia Street, London E1 9QA

HERITAGE RECRUITMENT

## RAGLAN PROPERTIES plc

## PROPERTY COMPANY

## MANAGER

Raglan Properties plc is an expanding £150m

property company based in Savile Row, W1.

The Company wishes to appoint a

PA/SECRETARY

TO PROPERTY INVEST

Tel: 0171 680 6806  
Office-based Support Roles

# Administrative Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586  
Office-based Support Roles

## APPOINTMENTS Bi~LANGUAGE

### FRENCH - ASSISTANT TO MANAGEMENT TEAM "GREEN" CO to £22,000

Fantastic new opportunity for a fluent French speaking PA, working for an international paper-recycling company. Setting up the new London office, liaising with clients and staff worldwide, and managing the recruitment team with day-to-day recruitment of the permanent staff. It is ideal for a hard working, on-the-ball individual who is ready to take on a high profile, high impact. Extensive use of French. Typing 30 wpm min, and computer literacy (MS Office) essential.

Tel: 0171 734 3380/0171 355 1975

Fax: 0171 499 0568

## APPOINTMENTS Bi~LANGUAGE

### GERMAN - Spoken Daily! £22,000 + paid O/T + all Banking Bens

Our client, a major international bank, is looking for a German mother-tongue standard PA/Secretary. Fast moving, exciting and a varied workload. This is a new position and has real scope. You will be the only linguist in the area and therefore can get as involved as you want. The team is dynamic and young. Age 24+.

Tel: 0171 734 3380/0171 355 1975

Fax: 0171 499 0568

## APPOINTMENTS Bi~LANGUAGE

### ANY EUROPEAN LANGUAGE £16-18,000 + paid O/T + 5 weeks hols

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# Century by Morris sees Glamorgan home

BY PAT GIBSON

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss): Glamorgan (2pts) beat Kent by eight wickets

HUGH MORRIS, the former England opening batsman, played what Matthew Maynard, his captain, described as the best innings that he had ever seen to send Glamorgan racing into the last eight of the Benson and Hedges Cup yesterday. Not only that, he also guaranteed them a home game at Cardiff.

Glamorgan had worked out that, to make sure of qualifying, they had to overhaul Kent's total of 208 for nine in 38.4 overs and Morris made it a formality by scoring 136 not out, including 21 fours and a six, as they reached 210 for two in the 33rd over.

The irony of it was that Morris, now 32 and virtually ignored by the England selectors since winning three caps, two of them against West Indies, in 1991, had handed over the captaincy to the more adventurous Maynard this season because he was tired of leading a team that had achieved nothing since winning the Sunday league in 1993.

Now he has led them into the cup quarter-finals for the first time since 1990 and Maynard could not have been more grateful.

"Before we went out to bat," he said, "we phoned the office to find out exactly what we had to do to make sure of qualifying with a better run-rate than Kent and then had an open discussion to decide whether we should go for it or just try to win the game and hope that the Somerset-Essex match worked out in our favour.

"We came to the conclusion that there was no point in winning the game and not qualifying, but nobody could have imagined a knock like Hugh's. It was the best I've ever seen, full of quality shots. It was just awesome."

Indeed it was. Glamorgan had as good as won the match

in the first nine overs when Steve Watkin, another of England's forgotten Welshmen, was taking advantage of the early moisture in the pitch to remove Kent's first four batsmen in the space of 21 deliveries at a personal cost of five runs.

The conditions eased later to allow Carl Hooper to fashion some sort of Kent recovery with a high-class 62 before he threw his wicket away in that infuriating way he has by holing out to long-on when it was obvious to everyone but him that his first priority was to bat through the innings.

Even so, it was still asking a lot of Morris and Steve James, his opening partner, to go for their shots from the outset of the innings, but that is precisely what they did. James made 60 off only 70 balls, hitting nine fours, yet he looked almost pedestrian alongside the magnificent Morris.

He sped past his fifty off 38 balls with four successive fours off Fleming, and then he hit three deliveries from McCague for four, six and four, before completing his third century in all competitions this season.

The century had been scored in 84 minutes off 68 balls and included a six and 17 fours.

By the time that James was caught at square leg off Ealham in the 26th over, they had put on 181, beating Glamorgan's record opening partnership in the competition – an unbroken 176 by Alan Jones and John Hopkins against Minor Counties at Swansea in 1980.

They were able to cruise in after that. Dale, a centurymaker the day before, was out third ball, but Morris and Maynard knocked off the remaining 25 runs inside six overs.

Capel did them proud with a stand of 148 for the second wicket after Yorkshire had yielded runs grudgingly in the opening overs of the innings.

Capel, who has been thrust up the order, made 82, then Harley, at long-off, held the third chance the batsman offered. Bailey, the new captain, finished with 75 not out and took his third gold award in the group matches. He also held a brilliant catch to dismiss White.

Kent's ample consolation was that they also qualified as runners-up by virtue of winning their previous four games.



John Morris, of Durham, striking out on his way to 145 against Leicestershire

## Yorkshire miss their chances

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

NORTHAMPTON (Yorkshire won toss): Northamptonshire (2pts) beat Yorkshire by seven wickets

YORKSHIRE of this victory, which was achieved with 4.5 overs to spare, Northamptonshire secured a home tie in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-finals, to be drawn this morning. Capel and Bailey did them proud with a stand of 148 for the second wicket after Yorkshire had yielded runs grudgingly in the opening overs of the innings.

Capel, who has been thrust up the order, made 82, then Harley, at long-off, held the third chance the batsman offered. Bailey, the new captain, finished with 75 not out and took his third gold award in the group matches. He also held a brilliant catch to dismiss White.

To win, Northamptonshire had only to bat sensibly, which they did. Silverwood commanded respect and White achieved success when

Montgomery, shuffling in front of his stumps, was leg-before. Bailey, however, was in a serious mood and Capel denied shot-making opportunities early on, persevered until the ball came more fully on to his bat. When Silverwood returned at the old football stand end, he was seeing it pretty well and gave it a good crack.

He was reprieved at mid-off on 23 when Stemp, sensing that he had made the catch before the ball was properly in his grasp, dropped it dismally, and again on 81, when Vaughan grinded a skier. Silverwood, the bowler, was entitled to be grumpy about such carelessness. Had the first chance been accepted, Northamptonshire would have been 55 for two and the door half-open. Capel and Bailey shut it firmly.

After the early loss of Bivas, and Moxon's misfortune, Yorkshire, previously unbeaten in the competition, never gave themselves a chance of setting Northamptonshire a stiff target. Bevan alone got "in", before he fell for 81 to the third of four runs-out.

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After the early loss of Bivas, and Moxon's misfortune, Yorkshire, previously unbeaten in the competition, never gave themselves





## Kluivert free to lead Euro challenge

AN AMSTERDAM court yesterday gave the go-ahead for Patrick Kluivert to lead Holland's challenge for the European championship. Kluivert, the Ajax striker whose experience belies his 19 years, was found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving but escaped the prison sentence that he and Guus Hiddink, the Holland coach, had feared.

Instead, Kluivert received a three-month prison sentence suspended for two years, 240 hours community service and was banned from driving for 18 months. The charge followed an incident last September in which a 56-year-old man died.

Although Kluivert may appeal, the outcome was good news for the Dutch, who would have sorely missed his presence in attack. As it is, Holland have picked a full-strength squad with Jordi Cruyff, the son of Johan Cruyff, perhaps the only surprise, given that he only recently made his international debut but after years of wavering between playing for Holland or Spain. Dennis Bergkamp, of Arsenal, is included; Ruud Gullit, of Chelsea, who has retired from international football, is not.

There are two England-based players in the Bulgarian squad announced yesterday — Boris Mikhailov, the Reading goalkeeper, and Bontcho Guentchev, the Luton Town striker.

**BULGARIAN (European championship):** B Mikhailov (Reading), D Popov (CSKA Sofia), Z Zvezkov (Stevie, Sofia), E Stoyanov (PFC Tsvetnoye), K Krastev (SV Tsvetkov), T Ivanov (RKC Vlaardingen), A Chavdarov (PFC Lokomotiv (Dessau)), I Krivakov (Armenian, Farangut), I Yordanov (Sporting, Luton), Z Tanev (RKC Vlaardingen), V Tanev (RKC Vlaardingen), K Balakov (VSB Stutgart), N Stankov (Stevie Sofia), G Donkov (CSKA Sofia), I Stoyanov (PFC Lokomotiv (Dessau)), G Stoyanov (PFC Lokomotiv (Dessau)), E Kostadinov (Bayern Munich), H Stankov (Farma), I Penev (Alkis), H Stankov (Varna), V Stoyanov (Varna), B Guentchev (Luton Town).

**HOLLAND (European championship):** E van der Sar (Ajax), E de Goey (Feyenoord), R Heij (Roda JC Kerkrade), F de Boer (Ajax), B van Gaal (Ajax), A Nurman (PSV Eindhoven), J de Kock (Roda JC Kerkrade), J Valdano (Sparta Rotterdam), R van der Gijp (Ajax), P Coetzee (PSV Eindhoven), R Witschge (Borussia), C Sander (Vitesse), A Wijnen (PSV Eindhoven), F Houtman (PSV Eindhoven), P Kort (PSV Eindhoven), J Cuyol (Barcelona), D Bergkamp (Arsenal).



Sir Bobby and Richards watch the youngsters go through their paces in the specially-arranged skill session. Photograph: Dan Chung

## Knight salutes minor celebrity

**Rob Hughes, football correspondent, sees one of the game's greats pay tribute to the tireless dedication of an unsung hero**

**B**ehind every great man of sport, there are a thousand unheralded volunteers who lay the seed beds for their progress. Sir Bobby Charlton, acknowledging this, is touring the eight cities preparing for the European football championship, honouring local grassroots workers — ambassadors for the game, he calls them.

In Birmingham yesterday he met Steve Richards, who founded the Walsall Minor League 60 years ago, has served on the Staffordshire Youth FA and, to this day, is acting treasurer of his local junior charity competition. "A phenomenal record covering more years than I have had on this earth," Charlton said.

Richards, a small and stocky man with crystal clear recollection, said that he was overwhelmed to have been nominated, let alone to have been called an ambassador for his game. "People use that word as such a grand title," Richards said at a Northfield park where some 100 youngsters had been gathered for a day of skills training with Sir Bobby, "but I have no delusions of grandeur, I'm just an ordinary person who has a

love of football. I've had the greatest pleasure to enjoy myself ever since I discovered what a beautiful game it was."

He recalls that day precisely. He was 12 years old and a player in Queen Mary's School Second XI, and he saw the Corinthians visit Walsall for the third round of the FA Cup and, though they were past their best, beat Walsall 4-0.

"They played with such skill and speed that 15,000 people in my town had never seen before," Richards said. "We haven't seen skills like that here for a very long time either. Of course I remember 1966, though I had no television and listened to it on radio, but, in the past ten years we've had this long ball stuff, and thank goodness there are one or two teams — Newcastle, certainly, the Villa, Manchester United — who are beginning to prove that English players have the skill if only we will redirect it the way it was meant to be played."

He does not sound so very

old, this man of almost 82. His mind has a clearer grasp of the issues and the failings of the game, and, in the company of youngsters, you can see how he sustained his remarkable input and what football gave him back.

Richards never married. He worked for 48 years for a rubber company in Birmingham, in a laboratory and concluding as works director. He cared for his mother who was housebound with acute arthritis for 25 years and was 47 before he lost that responsibility. By then, all the hours that he had spare were devoted to administering his game.

"This man," Charlton said of his small audience, "has had a magical and phenomenal time in the game. It may be difficult for you to understand, but, without people like him, neither you or I could ever have enjoyed this game."

Charlton privately recalled that two school teachers, J. K. Hamilton, his former head-

master, and a primary school mistress whom he knew only as Miss Houston, had directly influenced his opportunities.

"When I passed the 11-plus, I was due to go to a rugby school," he said, "but Mr Hamilton went to the authorities, and had it changed so that I went to a school that played football. Miss Houston was pretty special, too; I remember just after the war she took down the blackout curtains and made 20 sets of shorts for our team."

Charlton's initiative is being financed by Mastercard International and Marianne Fulgenzi, the company's director of special events marketing, said: "This project was Bobby's inspiration. He's so pure in his thinking when it comes to football and, when we sat down to devise a human project for Euro 96, he spoke of the need to correct the image abroad of English football as a hooligan nation."

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show the positive side, and we were really surprised when, with only three months' preparation, we received 318 nominations of people such as Steve Richards."

Mention of a sponsor on the playing fields of the young somehow encapsulates the life of Bobby Charlton. He is a symbol of a very commercial world — a director of Manchester United, a paid spokesman for Mastercard, a representative travelling the world on behalf of the Japan 2002 World Cup bid.

He has seen goalposts erected right in front of a Buddha in Rangoon, and witnessed children playing in Indonesia on a football field that had 20 palm trees scattered on the pitch, but he seemed genuinely humbled before Richards.

Charlton, and others, kept

repeating that Richards had given so much to the game. What they missed was that it was football that had given Richards so much: a life. Last weekend, in bitter cold, he manned the gate at a local youth cup final; last night, he was back where it all began, at Walsall Football Club, for the Minor League's Buller final. Life and the game turning full circle.

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